S O U T H L A N D T A L E S

(THE PREQUEL SAGA)

I

TWO ROADS DIVERGE

II

FINGERPRINTS

III

THE MECHANICALS

BY

RICHARD KELLY

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FADE IN:

A PURPLE METALLIC SHAPE of the STATE OF NEVADA fades up, enshrouded in smoke.

1 **TITLE CARD: <u>LAKE MEAD</u>** 1

2 **EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- NIGHT** 2

We descend through smoke to reveal a MALE FORM curled up in the fetal position in the middle of a SANDSTORM. It is BOXER SANTAROS (30's) [DWAYNE JOHNSON] - wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and beige shorts.

Boxer slowly opens his eyes and begins to sit up... looking around. A SMALL METAL CASE is resting there in the sand next to a BACKPACK. He opens the case and retrieves a FUTURISTIC SYRINGE.

Boxer then injects some sort of drug into his neck. He reacts to the drug with an expression of ECSTASY.

3 **TITLE CARD: <u>SOUTHLAND TALES</u>** 3

4 **EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- NIGHT** 4

Boxer is now on his feet with his BACKPACK strapped on. He braces against the wind and looks into the horizon.

There is a DIRT ROAD that leads to a fork. TWO ROADS lead over a hill with glowing light in the distance.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Two roads diverged in a desert storm.

Boxer places the metal case into his BACKPACK and begins to walk down the DIRT ROAD... pausing for a moment at the fork.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Boxer Santaros could not travel both... so long he stood... and looked down one, as far he could.

Boxer puts on his hood and braces against the wind of the sandstorm. He has clearly been wandering the desert for days without food or water.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

He begins to walk down the RIGHT ROAD... cresting over the hill where LIGHT SOURCES glow in the horizon.

MOMENTS LATER... we see two FLASHLIGHT BEAMS. It is TWO SOLDIERS (20's) dressed in full military gear.

SOLDIER #1
ANY SIGN OF HIM?

SOLDIER #2
NO! HE MUST HAVE WANDERED OUTSIDE OF THE PERIMETER!

SOLDIER #1
THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! COME ON!

The two Soldiers walk down the LEFT ROAD.

5 **TITLE CARD: <u>CHAPTER ONE - TWO ROADS DIVERGE</u>** 5

6 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - SUNRISE** 6

Boxer collapses from exhaustion near the edge of the desert highway. In the distance... we see A SILVER CADILLAC CONVERTIBLE driving west with its headlights on.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Several miles away... his chariot of rescue awaited.

7 **EXT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER** 7

The CAMERA drifts across the hood of the CADILLAC to reveal FORTUNIO BALDUCCI (30's) [WILL SASSO] behind the wheel.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Fortunio Balducci was a professional gambler... on return from a weekend of drunken revelry on Lake Mead.

We move in close toward Fortunio's face. He notices something in the REAR VIEW MIRROR... A BODY lying on the shoulder of the road.

Fortunio SLAMS ON THE BREAKS and puts the Cadillac into reverse. He steps out of the car and walks over to see Boxer laying there.

Fortunio immediately recognizes him.

FORTUNIO
Jesus Christ.

Fortunio leans down and shakes him.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
Hey there. Are you alive?

Boxer's eyes slowly open. He looks too weak to walk... so Fortunio begins to drag him across the gravel shoulder toward the Cadillac.

8 **INT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER** 8

Fortunio now has Boxer propped up in the passenger seat of the car. He is pouring BOTTLED WATER into Boxer's mouth. Boxer begins to cough up the water.

FORTUNIO
Alright... take it easy. Don't drink it too fast.

Fortunio looks around at the empty desert landscape to himself. He then starts the engine and drives westward.

9 **EXT. AM/PM GAS STATION -- LATER** 9

The Cadillac is now parked at an AM/PM GAS STATION. Fortunio emerges from the CONVENIENCE STORE and walks back toward the Cadillac with more FOOD and WATER.

He arrives at the car to find Boxer injecting himself in the neck with one of the strange SYRINGES from his backpack.

FORTUNIO
Hey there... easy with that!

Fortunio takes the syringe from Boxer... who appears disoriented.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
What the hell is this?

Boxer just stares at him. Fortunio puts the syringe in his pocket and pulls out a SMALL VIDEO CAMERA. He begins to record video of Boxer.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
So where am I taking you? Can you talk?

BOXER
Where am I?

FORTUNIO
You're in the Nevada desert... a few miles west of Lake Mead.

BOXER
What year is this?

Fortunio laughs.

FORTUNIO
The date is June 30, 2008. Planet... Earth.

Boxer looks around in a daze.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
What were you doing out there? Were you hiking? Did you get lost?

BOXER
I don't remember.

FORTUNIO
You don't remember... anything?

Boxer thinks to himself.

BOXER
I remember... a maze. A gigantic maze. The walls were made of sand.

10 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- NEXT** 10

A MILITARY HELICOPTER flies over the Nevada desert. There are elaborate SAND FORMATIONS that resemble a LARGE AND INTRICATE MAZE... running up to the edge of LAKE MEAD.

11 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- NEXT** 11

LESTER STUBBS (20's) [ROLE OPEN], a CLARKE COUNTY PARK RANGER... is wandering through the sand formations.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Lester Stubbs was a Clarke County park ranger. He was about to stumble upon a closely guarded secret.

Lester walks around with a WALKIE-TALKIE to his ear.

LESTER
We've got gigantic sand formations out here. I've never seen anything like this.

PARK RANGER (RADIO)
Well... we just had a category five sandstorm. Meteorologists are saying it's the biggest thing to hit this area since they invented meteorology.

Lester walks up to the top of one of the sand drifts.

LESTER
Yeah... but these formations... they've got right angles. It looks like some kind of maze.

Lester raises a pair of BINOCULARS to his face.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: Lester pans across to the edge of the maze. Beyond it... there is a LARGE MILITARY BASE

near the edge of LAKE MEAD.

LESTER (CONT'D)
It runs almost to the edge of the military base.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: Lester sees a series of LARGE TENTS surrounded by MILITARY VEHICLES and ARMED GUARDS. A BLACK LIMOUSINE... escorted by more MILITARY VEHICLES... enters the perimeter of the base.

LESTER (CONT'D)
I see a black limousine with a military escort.

PARK RANGER (RADIO)
That's the president.

LESTER
What?

PARK RANGER (RADIO)
That's George W. Bush. We just got news of his arrival.

LESTER
What the hell is he doing out here?

PARK RANGER (RADIO)
I do not have the answer to that question.

(MORE)

PARK RANGER (RADIO) (CONT'D)
But there are strange events transpiring here in Clarke County... so keep your eyes peeled for anything unusual.

12 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- MORNING** 12

The CADILLAC drives west down the desert highway.

13 **INT. CADILLAC -- MOMENTS LATER** 13

Fortunio is behind the wheel. Boxer rides shotgun.

FORTUNIO
Man... when I saw that it was you laying there on the edge of the road... I just about had a heart attack.
(beat)
I've seen all your movies, man.

Boxer looks confused.

BOXER
My movies?

FORTUNIO
Yeah.

BOXER
What do you mean by movies?

FORTUNIO
Do you remember anything... other than the maze?

BOXER
No.

FORTUNIO
Do you remember your own name?

BOXER
No.

FORTUNIO
Check your pockets... do you have a wallet on you?

Boxer checks his pockets.

BOXER
No identification whatsoever.

FORTUNIO
Your name is Boxer Santaros.

BOXER
Boxer Santaros?

FORTUNIO
You're one of the biggest movie stars in the world.

BOXER
No shit?

FORTUNIO
No shit!

14 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- LATE MORNING** 14

Lester wanders through the sand maze with a SMALL VIDEO CAMERA. Ahead... he sees the DECOMPOSING REMAINS of a DEAD MONKEY.

LESTER
Alright... I've just spotted a dead monkey. What the fuck is a dead monkey doing in the sand maze?

Lester hears a ROARING ENGINE in the sky above. He then looks up and sees a MILITARY HELICOPTER circling overhead.

15 **INT. CADILLAC -- LATE MORNING** 15

Fortunio and Boxer drive west in traffic.

BOXER
So... before I started acting, I played professional football?

FORTUNIO
Yeah, but getting injured was the best thing that ever happened to you.

BOXER
How so?

FORTUNIO
Because at the end of the day... it's all about the quality of the ass you get from your job.

BOXER
Who’s ass are we talking about here?

FORTUNIO
Celebrity ass. There are three kinds of celebrity ass. And by ass... I mean pussy. Women who like to fuck celebrities like you.

(beat)
Athlete ass. Actor ass. Rock star ass. You moved up a notch when you became an actor.

BOXER
What’s wrong with the athlete ass?

FORTUNIO
Athlete ass is the worst breed. You get these skanks who hang out in the lobby of some hotel in Phoenix... waiting for you and your roommates to check in.

(beat)
You end up fucking one of these chicks with a condom... and you pass out in your hotel room. She takes the condom, goes back to her room. She pulls out a turkey baster... and gives herself a spunk injection so she can have your kid and get a free ride.

BOXER
There are women who do that?

FORTUNIO
You betcha! For a guy who looks like you? A woman would do anything to get a piece of your DNA. Sometimes these dingbats bring their OBGYN with them to the hotel.

BOXER
What about the rock star ass?

FORTUNIO
Chicks who fuck rock stars don’t discriminate so much when it comes to looks. You can be fat... bald... ugly... covered in back hair. Hell... you could have leprosy... put a guitar in your hand and there are hot women who will fuck you.

(MORE)

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
(beat)
Because they can see into your soul.

Fortunio winks at Boxer.

16 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- MIDDAY** 16

Lester maneuvers through the maze. He sees the front end of a SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE protruding from the sand wall. The vehicle appears to be charred black.

LESTER
Okay... I've found a sports utility vehicle.

Lester RECORDS VIDEO of the SUV.

LESTER (CONT'D)
It appears to be burned up. Looks like some sort of fire has taken place.

Lester analyzes the front of the vehicle. There is a logo embossed on the front bumper that reads: TREER.

LESTER (CONT'D)
Okay... I see a Treer products logo. This must be one of the prototype Treer SUVs. I've heard rumors about this car... but I didn't know it had been released yet.

Lester walks over to the passenger side and begins to wipe sand away from the windshield. Inside the SUV is a HORRIBLY BURNED CORPRSE.

Lester jumps back... *horrified.*

LESTER (CONT'D)
Okay... there is a dead body inside the vehicle! The body appears badly burned... in the passenger seat!

Lester then leans over and PUKES... as the HELICOPTER circles overhead.

17 **INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER -- NEXT** 17

BARON VON WESTPHALEN (60's) [WALLACE SHAWN] rides inside of the chopper with ARMED SOLDIERS. They are looking through BINOCULARS down at Lester inside the maze.

SOLDIER #1
Okay... that looks like the nose of an SUV. There's a man down there!

BARON
Who is it?

SOLDIER #2
It looks like a park ranger. Defintely not US Army.

BARON
A park ranger? He's not authorized to be in this area!

SOLDIER #1
Do you want us to arrest him?

BARON
No. Take him out.

SOLDIER #2
Sir... are you asking me to shoot this man?

BARON
Did I stutter? I said take him out!

The Soldier grits his teeth.

SOLDIER #2
Yes sir.

The Soldier then raises his GUN and looks through the SCOPE - aiming the CROSS-HAIRS onto Lester.... *who has begun to wave his hands at the helicopter.*

18 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- MIDDAY** 18

As Lester waves his arms at the helicopter... a BULLET RIPS THROUGH HIS CHEST... and he collapses to the ground... dead.

19 **EXT. NEVADA HIGHWAY -- AFTERNOON** 19

The Cadillac remains stuck in GRIDLOCK TRAFFIC.

20 **INT. CADILLAC -- NEXT** 20

Boxer looks up at a LARGE DIGITAL BILLBOARD on the side of the road. It is an advertisement for a TREER SALTAIR SUV with the tagline that reads: ALWAYS REFUELED.

Something about the SUV catches his attention.

BOXER
Always refueled.

FORTUNIO
Yeah. Alternative fuel system... everyone in the world is trying the their hands on one of those SUVs. That is... if they work.

BOXER
What's with all of the traffic?

FORTUNIO
State line is up ahead. There's always a huge wait to get across the border.

BOXER
I don't understand.

FORTUNIO
Getting across the border is going to be an ordeal. I don't have an interstate travel visa and neither do you. Hell... you don't even have a driver's license. If you weren't so famous, you'd be fucked.

BOXER
Interstate travel visa? We need visas to cross the state line?

FORTUNIO
Oh yeah. They'll shoot you in the back if you cross the border without permission.

BOXER
When did it get like this?

FORTUNIO
After what happened in Texas.

BOXER
Texas?

FORTUNIO
Huge terrorist attack. Three years ago... someone set off two nukes in Texas. First one at the Mexican border in El Paso. Second one was in Abilene.

Boxer's eyes widen in horror.

21 **EXT. ABILENE, TEXAS -- JULY 4 2005** 21

The CAMERA flies over DOWNTOWN ABILENE, TEXAS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
July 4th, 2005. In a single moment... the world had changed forever.

SLOW MOTION: A MASSIVE LIGHT IGNITES in downtown Abilene... as the NUCLEAR BLAST WAVE EXPANDS... obliterating every building in a TWO MILE RADIUS.

A MASSIVE MUSHROOM CLOUD GROWS in the purple sky.

22 **INT. CADILLAC -- NEXT** 22

Boxer stares at Fortunio in shock.

BOXER
How many people were killed?

FORTUNIO
Almost two-hundred thousand.

BOXER
Who did this to us?

FORTUNIO
They're still trying to figure that out. But in the meantime... we've decided to go after the usual suspects with everything we've got in the arsenal.

Boxer looks out into the traffic. TWO ARMY TANKS rumble past them... heading east on the freeway shoulder.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
I hate to tell you this, pal. But you just woke up smack dab in the middle of World War III.

23 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- SAND MAZE -- SUNSET** 23

Two MILITARY HELICOPTERS hoist TWO TREER SALTAIR SUVs out of the SAND MAZE and fly them north... over the lake... toward the MILITARY CAMP.

24 **INT. MILITARY HANGAR -- NIGHT** 24

The SUVs are now parked inside of a hangar. One of them is BURNED... and the other remains in good condition. Baron Von Westphalen arrives with another TREER SCIENTIST named DR. SOBERIN EXX (40's) [CURTIS ARMSTRONG].

DR. EXX
Two sports utility vehicles. One burned human carcass.

BARON
I don't understand what caused the fire in the one vehicle.

DR. EXX
The sandstorm obscured our satellite cameras. We don't know what happened out there... but we'll get to the bottom of it.

BARON
Retrieve the body and take it to the Utopia 3 facility.

Just then... an attractive CHINESE WOMAN enters the hangar. Her name is SERPENTINE (30's) [BAI LING]. She goes to whisper into the Baron's ear.

SERPENTINE
The president is waiting to see you. He wants to know why none of the monkeys survived.

The Baron sighs angrily. He turns back to Exx.

BARON
Find Boxer Santaros. He's out there... somewhere.

DR. EXX
Yes sir.

25 **EXT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- NIGHT** 25

BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO sits at the NEVADA/CALIFORNIA state line. There is a LARGE ROLLERCOASTER attached to the sprawling hotel.

26 **EXT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- PARKING LOT -- NEXT** 26

Boxer and Fortunio walk toward the casino entrance.

FORTUNIO
Listen... my friend Carl is the manager here. He can get us some travel visas by morning... but we need to keep a low profile.

The ROLLERCOASTER races down the METAL TRACKS. Boxer stares at it... then notices a MARQUEE under the sign that reads: KRYSTA NOW - APPEARING TONIGHT.

27 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- BAR -- NIGHT** 27

The CASINO BAR is filled with patrons. There is a stage with a SINGLE STRIPPER POLE.

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and gentlemen... from Hollywood, California... please

welcome Miss Krysta Now!

KRYSTA NOW (29) [SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR] steps out onto the stage... wearing a PINK FUR COAT and BLONDE WIG. The crowd goes wild as she retrieves a stack of NOTE CARDS.

KRYSTA
Teen Horniness is not a crime. Just ask those nerds who shot up Columbine. Did they ever get laid?

The crowd remains silent.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
No. They never got laid.
(beat)
Never got laid. NEVER... got laid.

There is an awkward COUGH from the bewildered audience.

DRUNKEN HECKLER
You can't prove that!

Krysta stares at the HECKLER defiantly.

KRYSTA
We are an erotic nation. All your legislation... can't stop this masturbation.
(beat)
Teen horniness is not a crime. Keep an open heart and an open mind.

Krysta then takes a dramatic bow to let the crowd know that her POEM is finished. There is a smattering of polite, confused applause.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

28 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DRESSING ROOM -- LATER** 28

Krysta now sits in front of her DRESSING ROOM MIRROR. She has removed her BLONDE WIG... and combs out her long brown hair.

Someone knocks on the dressing room door.

KRYSTA
Come in!

CARL (40's) [ROLE OPEN], the bar manager, enters.

CARL
Hey there, Krysta.

KRYSTA
Hey Carl.

CARL
Listen, we've received some complaints from our customers. They don't come here to watch our dancers read poetry.

KRYSTA
You assumed I would be taking off my clothes.

CARL
Well... yeah. We put your name on the marquee... we can raise our drink prices. Your movies... they're real popular out here in the desert.

KRYSTA
Well... I'm transitioning into a new career.

CARL
Okay.

KRYSTA
You signed a contract with my manager.
(MORE)

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
In this contract it stated implicitly that I would be able to share my poetry with the audience.

CARL
Yeah... well I confess... I didn't read it. I just signed the damn thing.

KRYSTA
That's a shame. Do you know what 'implicit' means?

CARL
No darlin', I'm afraid I don't.

KRYSTA
It means... involved in the nature or essence of something... though not revealed, expressed or developed.

CARL

Okay.

KRYSTA
You signed a contract. I get to read my poetry.

CARL
Okay.

Carl smiles politely. Krysta goes back to combing her hair.

29 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- BAR -- MOMENTS LATER** 29

Krysta now sits at the BAR... sipping on a MARTINI. She looks across the casino and sees Fortunio and Boxer walking toward the ELEVATORS. *Boxer is wearing his hood so that no one can recognize him.*

Krysta takes one last sip of her martini and immediately makes a B-LINE for them.

30 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ELEVATORS -- NEXT** 30

Krysta approaches them at the elevators.

KRYSTA
Boxer! Where have you been?

She goes over to hug him. He just looks confused.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
I've been worried sick.

Fortunio just stares at her... wondering if he recognizes her from somewhere.

FORTUNIO
Wait a minute... I recognize you... you're...

KRYSTA
Krysta. Krysta Now.

FORTUNIO
Right. You guys know each other?

KRYSTA
I'd say that's an understatement. We were out here in the desert doing research together when he vanished.

FORTUNIO
Research? Bullshit. (to Boxer) She's just some whack-job. Let's go.

Fortunio pulls Boxer toward the elevators.

KRYSTA
I can prove it.

FORTUNIO
You can prove that you were doing research with Boxer Santaros?

KRYSTA
Come up with me to my room.

31 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- MOMENTS LATER** 31

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio are now inside her hotel room. She retrieves a SCREENPLAY from the dresser and hands it to Boxer. Printed on the cover: <u>THE POWER - BY BOXER SANTAROS AND KRYSTA NOW</u>.

BOXER
The Power.

Boxer hands Fortunio the screenplay.

FORTUNIO
Written by Boxer Santaros and Krysta Now. What the fuck is this?

KRYSTA
We've been working on this script together for months. It's very top secret.

Fortunio just stares at her... incredulous.

FORTUNIO
You're his writing partner.

KRYSTA
Yes. Boxer is going to make his directorial debut with this project. And I'm going to co-star in the film with him.

Fortunio laughs out loud.

FORTUNIO
Keep dreaming, Princess.

KRYSTA
We were out here on a research trip. My friend has a house on Lake Mead. Boxer had some new drug with him. This metal syringe. I asked him what it was but he wouldn't tell me.

Fortunio retrieves the MECHANICAL SYRINGE from his pocket and shows it to Krysta.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
That's the one.

Fortunio notices that there is a TREER logo on it.

FORTUNIO
Treer products. They're making drugs now?

KRYSTA
He injected himself in the neck... and then wandered off toward the lake. When I woke up... he was gone.

BOXER
I don't remember anything. I have amnesia.

KRYSTA
There was this huge sandstorm. They evacuated all of the lake front homes. So I left... and came here.

Fortunio sighs. He doesn't completely believe her story.

FORTUNIO
What are the odds?

KRYSTA
It was fate that brought you back to me, Jericho Cane.

FORTUNIO
Who the fuck is Jericho Cane?

KRYSTA
The lead character in THE POWER. Jericho Cane is no nonsense cop who plays by his own rules.

FORTUNIO
Where have I heard that name before?

Boxer begins to thumb through the script... *intrigued.*

BOXER
What character do you play?

KRYSTA
Dr. Muriel Fox.

Fortunio sighs out loud.

FORTUNIO
Okay... Dr. Muriel Fox... may I speak to you privately?

32 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- CORRIDOR -- MOMENTS LATER** 32

Fortunio and Krysta are now in the corridor.

FORTUNIO
Krysta, let's get one thing straight here. I've seen your movies. You're not an actress. You get paid to suck cock on camera.

KRYSTA
Not anymore. I'm moving into new business ventures.

FORTUNIO
Really? Like what?

KRYSTA
I write poetry. I'm developing my own pop album, reality television show, clothing line, jewelry line, perfume and energy drink.

FORTUNIO
Wow. Good for you. Do you realize that Boxer Santaros is a married man?

KRYSTA
Of course. I also know that he's unhappily married.

FORTUNIO
Do you know who he's unhappily married to?

KRYSTA
Don't patronize me. I watch the news. I know everything about him.

FORTUNIO
Well... he has amnesia. He doesn't remember a Goddamn thing. If word gets out that the two of you are shacking up...

KRYSTA
I am well aware of the repercussions.

FORTUNIO
You're clearly in this for the money. Is it blackmail? Or do you just want the publicity to help expand you whore empire?

KRYSTA
I want everything. And if you play your cards right, Fortunio - I'll give you a piece of the action.

Fortunio considers this.

FORTUNIO
We have to keep him away from the internet as long as possible. The second he Googles his name... he's going to figure out everything.

Fortunio paces around... trying to figure out what to do.

FORTUNIO (CONT'D)
I have to go meet my friend Carl.

Krysta withdraws two INTERSTATE TRAVEL VOUCHERS.

KRYSTA
Are you looking for these? Two interstate travel vouchers. I just bought them from Carl. He doesn't have any more.

FORTUNIO
How much do you want for them?

KRYSTA
I don't want your money. I want to accompany you and Boxer across the border. We have more research to do... and the time is now.

Fortunio just stares at her... *wondering what she is all about.*

33 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- NEXT** 33

Boxer sits in bed with the SCREENPLAY in front of him. He begins to read it.

We ZOOM IN close on the first page of the screenplay... *as Boxer imagines himself in the lead role.*

[THE POWER] FADE IN:

34 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- DAY** 34

We descend from high above into the CITY OF PALMDALE. The DESERT SIZZLES under an amber sky. HEAR RISES from the vein of asphalt known as the 15 FREEWAY.

A POLICE CRUISER races toward the eastern horizon.

35 **INT. POLICE CRUISER -- NEXT** 35

Behind the wheel is JERICHO CANE (30's) [DWAYNE JOHNSON]. One of LAPD's finest. Tall... dark... handsome.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)
He was the one I'd always been waiting for. His name was Cane. Jericho Cane.

Jericho has a SIX-PACK of BUD LIGHT sitting in the passenger seat.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He was the kind of man that God forgot how to make... before The New York Times declared him dead.
(beat)
God... that is.

36 **EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY -- DAY** 36

Jericho pulls off onto an EXIT... and the cruiser winds its way down into the bowels of Palmdale.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)
Jericho was the kind of cop who didn't know how to obey the rules.

37 **EXT. PALMDALE INTERSECTION -- DAY** 37

Jericho turns on his SIRENS... charging through a red light. A SOCCER MOM in a MINIVAN slams on the brakes before entering his path through the intersection.

SLOW MOTION: Jericho winks at the soccer mom.

DR. MURIEL FOX (V.O.)
Rules are for nerds.

SLOW MOTION: Soccer mom swoons.

38 **EXT. PALMDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET -- MOMENTS LATER** 38

Jericho pulls up in front of a SUBURBAN HOUSE on a residential street. His partner, OFFICER CHUCK MACPHERSON (50's) [ROLE OPEN], is waiting there for him.

Jericho steps out of the cruiser.

MACPHERSON
You're late, Jericho.

JERICHO
What the hell are we doing in Palmdale, Chuck?

MACPHERSON
As you know... the department has been investigating some paranormal activities out here in Palmdale.

DR. MURIEL FOX (29) [SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR] emerges from her car. She wears dark glasses and a low cut blouse.

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)
I'd like you to meet Dr. Muriel Fox. She's a psychic.

MURIEL
I'm also an astrophysicist.

MacPherson rolls his eyes politely.

MACPHERSON
She's been working with the force for the last couple of months. Her psychic tips are never wrong.

Jericho sizes her up.

JERICHO
I didn't realize Foxes were an indigenous species in Palmdale.

MURIEL
Cut the shit, Cane. There is a child in great danger... and we're running out of time.

Jericho nods to the house.

JERICHO
Is this the right address?

Just then... a WOMAN SCREAMING can be heard from inside.

MACPHERSON
I told you... she's never wrong.

The screams grow even louder... as the woman is joined by her HUSBAND in a serious domestic dispute. Macpherson and Jericho move toward the front door. Muriel follows.

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)
Domestic dispute. 14000 Wanito place.

MacPherson goes to open the front door, but it is locked.

JERICHO
Step aside, partner.

Jericho levels the door with a swift kick.

39 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- NEXT** 39

Jericho and MacPherson move into the FOYER. *Blood-curdling screams can be heard from the kitchen.*

INSIDE THE KITCHEN... a married couple are having a huge fight. Their names are RICK MCBRIDE (30's) [ROLE OPEN] and TAWNA MCBRIDE (30's) [ROLE OPEN]. Rick shoves Tawna hard against the kitchen counter.

RICK
YOU'RE A FUCKING SLUT! THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE! A FUCKING SLUT!

TAWNA
I FUCKED YOUR BROTHER LAST NIGHT TOO! I'LL FUCK HIM IN FRONT OF YOU!

RICK
YOU FUCKING BITCH! I'LL KILL YOU!

Rick turns around and notices the cops in the kitchen. He immediately reaches for a PISTOL on the counter and aims it at Jericho.

RICK (CONT'D)
CHECK THIS OUT, PIG!

Jericho has no choice. *He draws his gun and fires off a round into Rick's chest.*

Rick falls against the counter... sliding to the floor. He dies almost immediately.

Tawna looks down at her dead husband in shock. She is clearly high on drugs.

Suddenly... a BABY begins to cry from the next room.

TAWNA
CALEB!

Jericho follows her into the next room.

40 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT** 40

Tawna attends to her son CALEB inside the crib. She turns back to Jericho.

JERICHO
Step away from the crib, mam.

TAWNA
FUCK YOU!

Jericho raises his gun.

JERICHO
I said step away from the crib!

MACPHERSON
Don’t touch the baby!

TAWNA
But he’s sick!

41 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- LATER ON** 41

CORONERS are now removing Rick’s body from the house. MacPherson is talking with some other COPS who have arrived on the crime scene.

Tawna is wrapped in a blanket, sitting on the couch across from Jericho and Muriel.

MURIEL
Tell me about your baby, Tawna. What’s wrong with Caleb?

Tawna wipes a teardrop from her cheek. She glances over at the crib... where the baby sleeps peacefully.

TAWNA
He ain’t had no bowel movement yet.

JERICHO
Say that again? I don’t understand.

TAWNA
I said... he ain’t had no bowel movement yet, you fucking pig.

JERICHO
How long has it been since his last bowel movement?

TAWNA
He’s never had one... not in the six days he’s been alive.

JERICHO
So you’re telling us that this child you gave birth to six days ago... has yet to produce a bowel movement?

TAWNA
That’s right.

Tawna takes a drag from her cigarette. She blows smoke in Jericho’s face.

MACPHERSON
Have you been feeding him?

TAWNA
Fuck yeah. The little fella eats like a horse... only he don't pee... and he don't poo. Not one drop of fecal matter... not one drop of urine since we took him home from the hospital.

MURIEL
Have you taken Caleb to see a doctor?

TAWNA
We ain't got no health care.

MURIEL
Do you or your husband have any medical conditions that could have led to Caleb's condition?

JERICHO
Anything in your genes you might have passed onto him?

TAWNA
Rick... he was involved in some medical experiments in the military. Could be something got messed up with his sperm and shit.

MURIEL
Did his sperm have an unusual taste?

TAWNA
Fuck if I know. I never swallowed it.

JERICHO
I think you're lying to us, Tawna. I think you like to swallow.

TAWNA
Fuck you, pig.

JERICHO
Would you be willing to take a lie detector test?

Tawna has begun to sweat. She takes a drag off her cigarette. Just then... a LOUD FART erupts from Caleb's crib... and the ENTIRE HOUSE BEGINS TO VIBRATE for several seconds as though there is an EARTHQUAKE.

Everyone stares at each other in shock.

We hear the sound of a RINGING PHONE...

42 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- NEXT** 42

Boxer is interrupted from reading the script by the RINGING TELEPHONE. After a moment... he answers it.

BOXER
Hello?

FEMALE VOICE (PHONE)
(German accent)
I am calling for Ms. Now.

BOXER
She's not here at the moment.

43 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 43

An elderly woman named INGA VON WESTPHALEN (80's) [BETH GRANT] stands in an office that overlooks DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. *She recognizes the voice on the other end of the line.*

INGA
Is this... Jericho Cane?

44 **INT. BUFFALO BILLS CASINO -- HOTEL ROOM -- NEXT** 44

Boxer hesitates for a moment.

BOXER
Yes.

INGA (PHONE)
Stay with the girl. She is your only chance for survival.

The old woman hangs up the phone.

45 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 45

Inga is now dialing another number.

INGA
Baron Von Westphalen, please.

46 **INT. MILITARY HANGAR -- NIGHT** 46

Baron stares at the BURNED BODY that has now been loaded into a HIGH-TECH COFFIN that preserves it as a specimen. He raises his CELL PHONE to his ear.

BARON
Yes mother?

INGA (PHONE)
Boxer Santaros is with Ms. Now at the casino.

BARON
Excellent.

INGA (PHONE)
She is quite gifted. We will continue to monitor their progress.

BARON
The body obtained from the Treer

Saltair is en route to Utopia 3.

Baron watches as the COFFIN is loaded into a MILITARY HELICOPTER.

47 **INT. TREER TOWER -- NIGHT** 47

Inga stands before a LARGE DIGITAL LIGHT BOARD DISPLAY in the office. One one side... there are excerpts from the BOOK OF REVELATION clipped and highlighted with comments in the margins.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Revelation.
(beat)
Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.

On the other side... there are excerpts from THE POWER screenplay... *making connections between the two.*

48 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 811 -- MOMENTS LATER** 48

Fortunio sits on the bed of his hotel room, talking on the phone.

FORTUNIO
Yeah... it might be a couple of days before I'm back. I've stumbled into a little situation here. I'd tell you more... but I'd have to kill you.

He begins to laugh to himself.

49 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- ROOM 612 -- MOMENTS LATER** 49

Boxer sits on the edge of the bed. Krysta is asleep next to him. He retrieves the TREER SYRINGE and injects it into his neck.

Krysta opens her eyes... and then slowly opens the drawer to the BEDSIDE TABLE. She retrieves the GIDEON BIBLE from inside and holds it close to her chest.

She then rolls over and stares at Boxer. *They both look like they are lost in some sort of trance.*

KRYSTA
Rollercoaster.

50 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- CORRIDOR -- NEXT** 50

Boxer staggers out into the corridor and wanders toward the bank of ELEVATORS with his hood on.

51 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- MOMENTS LATER** 51

Boxer wanders through the casino in a daze. He sees a sign hanging there that reads: DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER.

52 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DESPERADO -- MOMENTS LATER** 52

Boxer walks up to the entrance to the DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER within the casino. There is a young HOTEL EMPLOYEE (20's) [ROLE OPEN] closing up for the night.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE
I'm sorry sir, the rollercoaster is closed for the night.

Boxer takes off his hood, revealing his face to the man. He immediately recognizes Boxer.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
Holy shit. You're staying here?

BOXER
I'd really like to ride the rollercoaster, if you don't mind.

The man looks around... then smiles politely at Boxer.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE
Let me talk to the manager.

53 **INT. BUFFALO BILL'S CASINO -- DESPERADO -- MOMENTS LATER** 53

Boxer is now seated in the harness in the FRONT SEAT of the DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER. Carl stands on the platform.

CARL
Enjoy your ride, Mr. Santaros.

He gives Boxer Santaros a salute... and then waves to the TECHNICIAN as the coaster begins to depart the platform and make the climb up to the peak of the first drop.

54 **EXT. DESPERADO ROLLERCOASTER -- MOMENTS LATER** 54

The COASTER arrives at the peak of the first drop. Boxer looks out at the DESERT LANDSCAPE as the first light of morning has begun to illuminate the sky around him.

The ROLLERCOASTER DROPS and we follow with Boxer down the 225 DROP at a speed of more than 80 MPH. The CASINO HOTEL and PARKING LOT whip in-and-out of view as he CAREENS AROUND THE RAILS.

We move in close on BOXER'S FACE as his he begins to HALLUCINATE. From BOXER'S POV - we begin to see the rollercoaster rails and surrounding hotel distort into a LIQUID TUNNEL.

When we emerge through the other side of the LIQUID TUNNEL... *still following the path of the coaster*... the HOTEL IS GONE and there is nothing but EMPTY DESERT to be seen.

As the coaster comes to a rest... Boxer sees that there are SEVERAL DOZEN CHUKEHANSI INDIANS on horseback... waiting there.

They stare back at him from the exact same desert landscape as it existed in the year 1902.

The CHUKEHANSI begin to CHANT and raise their SPEARS as they witness the mysterious man in the rollercoaster floating there - A RUPTURE IN THE FABRIC OF SPACE-TIME.

MOMENTS LATER... the rupture closes... and Boxer is now staring back at the rails of the coaster and the surrounding platform at Buffalo Bill's.

CARL
Did you enjoy the ride?

Boxer turns and looks at Carl in a daze.

BOXER
Very much.

55 **TITLE CARD: <u>CHAPTER TWO - FINGERPRINTS</u>** 55

56 **EXT. LAKE MEAD -- SUNRISE** 56

We descend upon LAKE MEAD. A LARGE LUXURY HOUSEBOAT floats out on the water. On the ROOF DECK... a man named RONALD TAVERNER (33) [SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT] is standing at the edge of the deck... staring out at the water.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
They called him Ronald Taverner. Son of Tab and Eve Taverner. He was thirty-three years old. He grew up in Hermosa Beach, Caliornia.

TAB TAVERNER (60's) [ROLE OPEN]... emerges onto the roof deck with his wife EVE TAVERNER (60's) [ROLE OPEN].

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
This was all he could remember about himself... as he had been stricken with amnesia.

Tab and Eve approach their son.

TAB
Ronald.

Ronald turns around to face his father.

RONALD
Who are you?

TAB
I'm your father, Ronald. And this is your mother. You... don't remember us?

Eve offers her son a warm smile.

RONALD
No. I can’t remember anything.

Tab just stares at his son. A younger MAN, shirtless, covered in TATTOOS with hair styled into a RAINBOW MOHAWK, emerges from below. His name is JIMMY HERMOSA (30’s) [AARON DILLARD].

TAB
Now... Jimmy here is going to administer an injection to your neck. It will make you feel better.

Jimmy walks over and retrieves one of the metal TREER syringes. Ronald stares at it warily.

EVE
They call it Fluid Karma. The elixir of God.

RONALD
The elixir of God?

EVE
Yes. Don’t be afraid.

Jimmy jabs the NEEDLE into Ronald’s neck. He closes his eyes in pain... then reacts immediately to the calming effect of the drug.

TAB
Now follow us downstairs... there’s something we want to show you.

57 **INT. HOUSEBOAT -- LOWER LEVEL -- MOMENTS LATER** 57

Ronald follows his parents into the lower level of the houseboat. There is a BACK BEDROOM closed off by a CURTAIN.

TAB
Are you ready?

Ronald just nods... unsure of how he feels.

Tab pulls the curtain back... revealing ROLAND TAVERNER (33) [SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT], asleep on a BED. His hands and feet have been tied with ROPE, and his mouth covered with TAPE.

He is Ronald’s identical twin brother.

Ronald cringes at the sight of his twin.

RONALD
Who is he?

EVE
He’s your twin brother. His name is Roland. Roland Taverner.

RONALD
What happened to him. Why is he tied up?

TAB
Because you kidnapped him. You were driving him out here to Lake Mead to meet us... but you got caught up in a massive sandstorm. It was only through a GPS tracking chip that we eventually found the two of you.

EVE
You must have fallen and hit your head in the storm. Hopefully your memory will return in a few days.

RONALD
Why would I kidnap my own brother?

Tab and Eve exchange glances.

EVE
Three years ago... your brother was drafted into the army and sent to Iraq. After the first year, your father was able to make special arrangements to discharge him from service and allow him to come back home.

TAB
He joined the UPU squad in Hermosa Beach.

RONALD
What’s... UPU?

EVE
Urban Pacification Unit.

TAB
They are a private security force - like a domestic Blackwater - sanctioned and funded by the United States Government and a new think tank called US-IDENT.

EVE
They are a fascist organization. A dangerous organization.

TAB
The UPU units are committing horrible atrocities.

EVE
Innocent people are being killed. Homes are being invaded without search warrants. Private information is being sold. The system is self-destructing.

Ronald stares at his sleeping brother.

RONALD
Has my brother committed any of these atrocities?

TAB
No. Your brother has been compiling evidence of these atrocities - and reporting back to us. He's a mole. He works for us.

RONALD
And who do you work for?

EVE
We work with the Neo-Marxist underground.

Ronald notices that there are several WEAPONS strewn on the table.

58 **EXT. HOUSEBOAT -- LATER THAT MORNING** 58

The HOUSEBOAT has now been docked at the MARINA. Tab, Eve and Ronald are now back on top of the roof deck.

RONALD
The Neo-Marxist underground.

EVE
We are the last remaining vestiges of the Democratic party.

TAB
Last week, government operatives discovered that Roland was leaking information to the underground - so we had no choice but to orchestrate his kidnapping before they took him into custody.

EVE
Your brother has become mentally unstable. He must remain unconscious and hidden from sight. If the government finds him... US-IDENT will administer a powerful truth serum.

TAB
If they get inside Roland's head... the repercussions will be catastrophic.

EVE
They might torture it out of him.

It will blow our entire operation.

RONALD
What do you want from me?

TAB
We need you to return to Los Angeles... and impersonate your brother.

Tab pulls up an IMAGE on his LAPTOP. It is a FILE PHOTO of ROLAND TAVERNER dressed in his UPU UNIFORM.

RONALD
You want me to impersonate my twin brother?

EVE
You're an actor, Ronald. You got lucky and avoided the draft. The military has a policy where they won't draft both twins.
(beat)
You owe this to him.

TAB
Your amnesia is a blessing. A truth serum won't work on you. If you assume his role as an UPU officer, you can carry out his mission without risk.

59 **EXT. LAKE MEAD DESERT -- MARINA PARKING LOT -- MORNING** 59

Tab and Eve escort Ronald down the MARINA DOCK toward the parking lot. Jimmy Hermosa pushes Roland's unconscious body on a ROLLING HOSPITAL GURNEY toward a CHEVY PICKUP TRUCK with an extended cab.

ZORA CHARMICHAELS (30's) [CHERI OTERI] emerges from the truck and opens the tailgate. They hoist the gurney up into the extended cab and roll it inside.

EVE
Your contact is Zora Charmichaels. She's a Neo-Marxist from Venice Beach.

RONALD
What exactly is a Neo-Marxist?

EVE
We are disciples of Marxist principles. The voice of the revolution.

TAB
You might say that our mission in life is to destroy capitalism and dethrone God.

Zora reaches out to shake Ronald's hand.

ZORA
Hello Ronald.

RONALD
Nice to meet you.

ZORA
Your brother is quite a hero. Let's hope you measure up.

TAB
If Roland ever starts to wake up, just give him another injection.

Tab hands Zora a SMALL METAL CASE with more TREER SYRINGES. Eve gives Ronald a hug and a kiss.

TAB (CONT'D)
Go with God, Ronald.

Ronald pauses for a moment... and then looks back at Tab.

RONALD
I thought you wanted to dethrone God.

Tab smiles.

TAB
Only time will tell, my son.

Ronald nods his head slowly as Zora starts the engine.

RONALD
Right.

As she pulls the truck away from the lot... Ronald watches his parents WAVING GOODBYE in the REAR VIEW MIRROR.

60 **EXT. NEVADA DESERT -- LATE MORNING** 60

The CHEVY TRUCK drives west on the highway.

61 **INT. CHEVY TRUCK -- NEXT** 61

Zora drives... Ronald sits shotgun. He takes a deep breath and sighs out loud.

ZORA
You're not feeling well?

RONALD
Just a little constipated.

ZORA
I see. How long has it been since your last bowel movement?

RONALD
(embarrassed)
A couple of days now. I haven't gone to the bathroom at all since I woke up on the houseboat.

ZORA
Hmmmm. That's interesting.
(cryptic beat)
You know there's this theory... that eventually humans will evolve to a state of existence where bowel movements are no longer necessary.

RONALD
Sounds neat. How would that work?

ZORA
A modified organic diet and transcendental meditation.
(MORE)

ZORA (CONT'D)
Your body would learn how to absorb all nutrients into the body, making defecation unnecessary.

RONALD
Hmmm. Somehow I doubt that will ever happen. Defecation is a part of life. It stinks... and we have to accept it.

ZORA
I disagree. I think defecation is the result of an inferior food supply and spiritual weakness.

RONALD
It's a physiological requirement of the body. Spirituality has nothing to do with it.

ZORA
You just wait and see.

They ride in silence for a moment.

RONALD
Where are we going, Zora?

ZORA
Los Angeles.

62 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- MIDDAY** 62

Fortunio pulls the Cadillac up in front of the residence at 1400 Wanito Place.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Boxer and his new travelling companions had arrived in the city of Palmdale.

Fortunio turns off the engine.

FORTUNIO
What the hell are we doing in Palmdale, Krysta?

Boxer recognizes the house. He looks through the screenplay. *It is the exact same location he envisioned from reading the screenplay the night before.*

BOXER
1400 Wanito Place. Our screenplay... it's just like I imagined.

KRYSTA
All great screenplays are inspired by truth.

She opens the back door and gets out of the car.

KRYSTA (CONT'D)
Come on... let's go knock and see if there's anyone home.

FORTUNIO
Who the fuck lives here?

KRYSTA
My old friend Tawna McBride. She went to my high school.

BOXER
The character in the script is based on a real person?

KRYSTA
Yes. I grew up here in Palmdale. We based several characters on people from my hometown.

BOXER
Right.

KRYSTA
You have to become Jericho Cane. Get into character.

BOXER
Right.

Krysta knocks on the door. TAWNA MCBRIDE (30's) answers the door. *She looks exactly the same as Boxer imagined her to be.*

TAWNA
Well, well, well... if it isn't Krysta Kapowski. The one and only.

KRYSTA
Hi Tawna.

Tawna notices Boxer standing there.

TAWNA
Holy shit. Is that who I think it is?

BOXER
You betcha.

TAWNA
Goddamn. I know you was lookin' to go legit with your career and shit... but Boxer Santaros?
(beat)
Fuck me!

63 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT** 63

Tawna sits down on the couch, cradling her NEWBORN INFANT. Boxer eyes the baby nervously.

KRYSTA
Where is Rick?

TAWNA
Rick died six months ago.

KRYSTA
I'm so sorry. What happened?

TAWNA
He overdosed.

KRYSTA
Was it heroin?

TAWNA
No.

KRYSTA
Oxycontin?

TAWNA
No. I don't know what kind of drug it was. I found him on the bathroom floor... and there was this weird syringe stuck in his neck. It looked all futuristic and shit.

Fortunio withdraws one of Boxer's syringes from his backpack.

FORTUNIO
Did it look like this?

TAWNA
Yeah... where did you get that?

FORTUNIO
I don’t know. Boxer... where did you get these syringes?

BOXER
I don’t remember.

TAWNA
Did you volunteer for the program?

BOXER
I don’t know. What’s the program?

KRYSTA
You’ll have to excuse him. He has amnesia.

TAWNA
Oh.

BOXER
What is the program?

TAWNA
Rick was in the army. He did three tours in Iraq... then he came home. Late last year... he got involved in some top secret program. Said he couldn’t tell me anything about it or they’d kill him.

BOXER
Please tell us everything you know about this program.

TAWNA
I think the army was testing some kind of drug on him. They started paying him good money.

BOXER
Did he start the program before you got pregnant?

TAWNA
Yeah... he didn’t tell me about the program until I was six months along. He was worried that the baby might come out all fucked up and shit... be he was fine.

BOXER
What's your baby's name?

TAWNA
Caleb.

Boxer and Krysta exchange glances. Boxer has begun to sweat profusely... tapping his fingers together.

TAWNA (CONT'D)
In the final weeks before he died, Rick started to act all crazy. He'd get up in the middle of the night and wander out into the desert.

BOXER
Why did he go out into the desert, Tawna?

TAWNA
He said he was going to see the Indian Chief.

Boxer looks over at Krysta again. He continues to tap his fingers together nervously.

BOXER
Can... can you excuse me for a moment? I need to go to the bathroom.

TAWNA
Down the hall.

64 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- HALLWAY -- NEXT** 64

Boxer walks down the corridor toward the bathroom door.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Boxer knew that a secret was hidden behind the bathroom door.

Boxer reaches out and turns the DOOR KNOB.

65 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- BATHROOM -- NEXT** 65

Boxer is now peeing in the toilet. He takes a deep breath... then flushes the toilet. As he goes to wash his hands in the sink... he looks into the MIRROR.

There is LIQUID DISTORTION... and the face that materializes in the mirror is not his own. It is the face of RICK MCBRIDE (30's)... staring back at him.

RICK
Hey there... future man.

Boxer remains frozen.

RICK (CONT'D)
Do you bleed?

BOXER
What?

RICK
I said... do you bleed?

BOXER
Everyone bleeds.

RICK
Not like we do... future man. I'm talking about bleeding through time. Like we are right now.

Rick holds up one of the Treer syringes and begins to laugh maniacally.

BOXER
Who is the Indian?

RICK
He's a natural bleeder. Nevada Chukehansi tribe. Took me a while to find him.

BOXER
How did you first make contact?

RICK
Shot myself up with the exlixir of God... went running out to the desert and got my adrenaline pumping. It's all about the level of adrenaline in your system.

BOXER
What day is it over there?

RICK
January 20th, 2008. Why day is it over there, future man?

BOXER
July 1st, 2008.

RICK
Six months in the future.

Rick thinks for a moment.

RICK (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing in my house, six months in the future?

BOXER
I'm here doing research.

RICK
Bullshit. You're fucking Tawna, aren't ya?

BOXER
I'm not fucking Tawna. She's not my type.

Rick stares at Boxer.

RICK
Wait a minute... I recognize you, future man. You're... you're that fucking actor. Santaros. Boxer Santaros.

BOXER
Yeah.

RICK
What the hell is Boxer Santaros doing in my house six months in the future?

BOXER
Doing research.

RICK
Well where the fuck am I? Still at work?

Boxer hesitates for a moment.

BOXER
You're dead, Rick.

RICK
What?!

BOXER
You died... right here in this bathroom... six months ago.

RICK
Fuck you.

Rick looks deranged... high on the drug. He raises the syringe up.

BOXER
Rick... whatever you do... don't stick that syringe in your neck!

RICK
Fuck you, Santares. Nobody tells Rick McBride what to do.

BOXER
They found your body right here in this bathroom with a syringe in your neck!

RICK
You lie.

BOXER
Why would I lie to you?

RICK
Because you're fucking Tawna! I knew that fucking slut was cheating on me!

He puts the needle to his neck.

BOXER
Don't do it!

Rick injects the needle into his neck. Seconds later... he collapses to the ground... unconscious.

Boxer begins to tap his fingers together nervously... mumbling incoherently to himself.

Just then... there is a LOUD KNOCK at the door.

66 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- CORRIDOR -- NEXT** 66

Krysta is knocking on the door. Tawna and Fortunio stand behind her.

KRYSTA
Boxer! What's going on in there?

Boxer comes rushing out of the bathroom.

BOXER
I just saw how your husband died. I was part of it.

TAWNA
What the fuck are you talking about?

BOXER
I... I can see through time.

TAWNA

You get the fuck out of my house!

BOXER
I'm so sorry... I tried to save him.

TAWNA
GET THE FUCK OUT!

Caleb begins to scream and cry. Boxer begins to jitter... and runs toward the exit.

67 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- MOMENTS LATER** 67

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio come out of the house and move toward the Cadillac. Tawna appears in the doorway... still screaming.

TAWNA
Your movies suck anyway... pig!

Boxer turns to Krysta in a daze.

BOXER
What's happening to me?

He then collapses in the front lawn.

The CAMERA descends down into Boxer's face as his eyes remain wide open... CATATONIC. The CAMERA moves all the way into his RIGHT EYE... into a LIQUID VORTEX.

68 **INT. SAND MAZE -- DREAM SEQUENCE** 68

The CAMERA emerges from the LIQUID VORTEX of his RIGHT EYE to find Boxer laying on his back in the deep corridor of the MASSIVE SAND MAZE.

He slowly rises to his feet and sees that the walls of the maze are more than four stories tall. He begins to wander his way through.

BEHIND HIM... he hears a LOUD, REPTILIAN ANIMAL SOUND.

Boxer spins around and sees a MASSIVE SNAKE rounding the corner of the maze corridor. The snake is literally the size of EIGHT GREYHOUND BUSES strung together.

The SNAKE begins to CHARGE FORWARD after him.

Boxer begins to sprint through the maze as fast as he can... trying to outrun the snake.

He makes his way around several corners... leading to a LIGHT SOURCE down the end of another sand corridor. The snake is closing in... as the SHRIEKING REPTILE NOISES are deafeningly loud.

He eventually makes his way into a MASSIVE SAND CHAMBER. The chamber has a long set of PEDESTAL STAIRS that lead up to a PLATFORM against a massive SAND WALL.

Imbedded in the sand wall is a LARGE LIQUID BARRIER.

Imprinted on this liquid barrier is a GLOWING HANDPRINT.

Boxer sprints as fast as he can up the PEDESTAL STAIRS as the snake closes in.

Just as the snake is about to overtake him... widening its MASSIVE JAWS... Boxer makes a huge leap into the liquid barrier.

He PLUNGES THROUGH THE LIQUID BARRIER... *and the snake recoils away from it in fear.*

Boxer emerges from the other side of the liquid barrier into an IDENTICAL SAND PEDESTAL CHAMBER. The GLOWING LIQUID HANDPRINT behind him casts him in silhouette as he looks down into the chamber.

Standing there on the pedestal stairs are ROLAND and RONALD TAVERNER.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
The book of Revelation tells the tale of two witnesses who appear in Jerusalem to speak out against the sins of mankind.

The three men stare at each other in shock... *wondering how they arrived in this mysterious maze of sand.*

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They are eventually killed by those tormented by their prophecies.

The CAMERA moves in close toward RONALD'S FACE.

RONALD
Who are you?

BOXER
My name is Jericho Cane.

The CAMERA moves in close toward Ronald's LEFT EYE... into a LIQUID VORTEX.

69 **INT. CHEVY TRUCK -- EVENING** 69

The CAMERA pulls out of the LIQUID VORTEX in Ronald's LEFT EYE... *as he gasps awake from the same dream.*

He is sitting in the passenger seat of Zora's truck. They are stuck in gridlock traffic.

RONALD
Where are we?

ZORA
Somewhere outside of Palmdale. How are you feeling?

RONALD
Okay. How long was I asleep?

ZORA
Maybe ten minutes. If a head injury caused your amnesia... you may lose consciousness from time to time.

Ronald looks into the back of the truck. Roland is still sleeping.

RONALD
Shouldn't we take him to a hospital?

ZORA
Not necessary. I'm more than qualified to care for him.

RONALD
Are you a doctor?

ZORA
I'm a physical therapist.

RONALD
Like... a personal trainer?

ZORA
(defensive)
Yeah... so what?

RONALD
He needs to see a doctor.

ZORA
You need to shut the fuck up.

Ronald grits his teeth. He does not trust this woman.

RONALD
I'm hungry.

ZORA
Fine. We'll stop for food at the next exit.

70 **EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES -- NIGHT** 70

HELICOPTER SHOT: We descend onto TREER PLAZA TOWERS in DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Since the beginning of the third world war... alternative energy had become a lucrative commodity. Treer Plaza in Los Angeles was epicenter of the alternative fuel movement.

71 **DOOMSDAY SCENARIO INTERFACE [DSI]:** 71

Over the background of a WORLD MAP... TEXT, GRAPHICS and VIDEO play out in various WINDOWS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Baron von Westphalen was born in the town of Trier, Germany.

DSI: PHOTOS of YOUNG BARON in Trier, Germany.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
His mother Inga was the grand-daughter of Jenny Von Westphalen, wife of Karl Marx.

DSI: A FAMILY TREE linking the Westphalens to Karl Marx.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Inga had found wealth and fame working as an architect for the Treer corporation - a leading German defense contractor.

DSI: IMAGES of a younger INGA and her MILITARY DESIGNS for the GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
After the nuclear attacks in Texas, the US Government needed to expand the capabilities of its war machine.

DSI: A 3-D MAP targets IRAN, SYRIA, and NORTH KOREA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Inga landed an exclusive contract with the Pentagon to design and construct twelve 900-foot Mega-Zeppelins.

DSI: Images of the TREER MEGA-ZEPPELIN being constructed.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The airships would transport troops and cargo into combat zones in the middle east.

DSI: Images of a MEGA-ZEPPLINS unloading TANKS, TRUCKS, and HUNDREDS OF TROOPS into MILITARY BASES overseas.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Treer Mega-Zeppelin production contract earned the corporation 112 billion dollars in 2006.

DSI: MEGA-ZEPPELINS under construction in MASSIVE HANGARS at EDWARDS AIRFORCE BASE in the CALIFORNIA DESERT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
A single aeronautics venture had made them the richest and most powerful corporation in the world.

DSI: The TREER TOWERS under TIME-LAPSE CONSTRUCTION in DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Seeing the potential for another lucrative contract with the Pentagon, Inga named her son Baron head of a top secret alternative fuel project.

DSI: An INDUSTRIAL SHIP in the MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The Baron sent a remote excavation unit on a dig below the Mediterranean off the coast of Israel.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows a REMOTE EXCAVATION UNIT digging deep within the Earth's mantle.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The REU broke through a wall of rock on the outer rim of the Earth's mantle... and found itself submerged in fluid.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows the REU penetrating a DEEP RESERVOIR OF FLUID beneath the rock.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
It was unlike anything they had ever seen before.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows the path of the DEEP FLUID TRENCH as it TWISTS AND TURNS FOR MILES UPON MILES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The mysterious fluid went down for thousands of miles. A deep trench that wrapped itself around the core of the earth like a snake.

DSI: Animation shows the ENTIRE SERPENT TRENCH that spans MILLIONS OF MILES.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They called it the Serpent Trench. Before long, they had pumped millions of gallons of the mysterious fluid up into Utopia 1.

DSI: 3-D Animation shows a VAST CONTAINER of the fluid at the top of a the large UTOPIA 1 OCEAN RIG in the Mediterranean.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They called it the elixir of God.
(beat)
An energy field began to form when the elixir was exposed to oxygen in the earth's atmosphere.

DSI: The FLUID KARMA LOGO fills the screen.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Fluid Karma was born into the world.

DSI: The UTOPIA 1 TIDAL GENERATOR rises above the ocean... emitting a HUGE BEAM OF ENERGY into the sky.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Utopia 1 began to broadcast a hydro-electric energy field that could run a vast network of engines by remote.

72 **INT. INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE -- AUDITORIUM** 72

Baron Von Westphalen stands before a huge crowd at an INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE.

BARON
Imagine, if you will, a hydro-electric energy field that covers an area of several hundred miles.

Vehicles driving within this energy field would never have to be re-fueled.

3-D Animation on the wall behind the Baron shows the ENERGY FIELD blanketing the atmosphere for HUNDREDS OF MILES surrounding the UTOPIA 1 TIDAL GENERATOR.

BARON (CONT'D)
Through the power of the ocean tides... we have achieved wireless electricity!

The CROWD ROARS with applause as the Baron retrieves a SMALL METAL BALL about the size of a GRAPEFRUIT.

BARON (CONT'D)
These spherical antennas will be placed at ground level to sustain the energy field in zones of high traffic concentration.

DSI: A MAP shows the SPHERICAL ANTENNAS placed along the edges of FREEWAYS throughout SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
The Baron's formula for Fluid Karma sent shockwaves across the world. The Pentagon gave him a four trillion dollar contract to construct two additional Utopia facilities...

(MORE)

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
the most prominent one to be placed off the coast of Santa Monica.

DSI: A 3-D SATELLITE MAP of the CALIFORNIA COAST... isolates a LOCATION MARKER for UTOPIA 3 just off the coast of SANTA MONICA.

73 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- LOADING DOCK -- NIGHT** 73

The HIGH-TECH COFFIN with the BODY inside of it is unloaded from a HELICOPTER onto the HELIPAD of UTOPIA 3.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Treer had now begun to engage in new, top-secret experiments.

US ARMY GENERAL TEENA MACARTHUR (40's) [JANEANE GAROFALO] stands at the entrance to an INDUSTRIAL LOADING DOCK on the upper level of the facility. She watches as SOLDIERS escort the coffin toward her.

She begins to speak into a SECURE TELEPHONE LAND LINE attached to a REMOTE DEVICE.

TEENA
Unidentified male body... badly burned. Received at 9:04 PM. Will someone please tell me what the fuck is going on out there in the desert?

74 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- DAY** 74

Inga is meeting with Baron and Dr. Exx in the Treer offices.

INGA
Mr. Santaros is just outside of Palmdale with Ms. Now and an unidentified male.

BARON
Her name is Krysta Now?

DR. EXX
Yes. She is a very talented performer. Nobody rocks the cock like Krysta Now.

BARON
It is still unclear to me how Ms. Now entered the equation.
(MORE)

BARON (CONT'D)
Putting the specimen in the hands of a porn star seems like a foolish decision, Dr. Exx.

DR. EXX
Ms. Now... or Ms. Kapowski... which is her Christian name... is not who she appears to be.

INGA
She is a psychic.

75 **EXT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- SUNSET [FLASHBACK]** 75

We descend upon a MASSIVE HANGAR at EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE in the CALIFORNIA DESERT. A 747 is parked outside of it... surrounded by EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

INGA (V.O.)
Of all the passengers we studied at Edwards Air Force base... she was the only one to remember everything that occurred during the incident.

76 **INT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- HANGAR -- NEXT** 76

The HANGAR is filled with COTS... with SEVERAL HUNDRED AIRPLANE PASSENGERS resting or being treated by MILITARY DOCTORS and NURSES.

KRYSTA lies asleep on one of the cots... surrounded by DR. EXX and INGA.

DR. EXX (V.O.)
While under hypnosis... she produced a remarkable level of accuracy in predicting future events.

77 **INT. TREER TOWER -- OFFICE -- NEXT** 77

Baron grabs a hard copy of THE POWER from the table and then begins to thumb through it.

BARON
Yes. I am beginning to recall. Explain to me the significance of this ridiculous screenplay.

DR. EXX
After administering a healthy dose of the fluid karma solution...
(MORE)

DR. EXX (CONT'D)
I placed Ms. Now under hypnosis and read to her the entire book of Revelation.
(beat)
She chose to write her analysis in screenplay form. We believe that... while admittedly ridiculous... this screenplay is some sort of prophecy.

Baron looks at the LIGHT WALL with excerpts from THE POWER and the BOOK OF REVELATION.

BARON
Some religious scholars have proposed that the entire book of Revelation was written while the apostle John was under the influence of magic mushrooms.

DR. EXX
A legitimate hypothesis. Revelation has proven to be impenetrable - even to the most dedicated of religious scholars.

BARON
But you believe that the one person who has finally been able to crack the code to Revelation is a psychic porn star from Palmdale?

DR. EXX
Yes.

78 **INT. CADILLAC -- NIGHT** 78

Krysta rides in the back of the Cadillac as Fortunio maneuvers it down a DESERT BACK ROAD. Boxer sits in the front seat... reading his copy of THE POWER.

FORTUNIO
Where the fuck are we going now, Krysta?

KRYSTA
I'm not going to respond to your questions until you learn how to treat me with respect.

BOXER
Can you guys please be quiet? I'm trying to read here.

We ZOOM IN on the THE POWER screenplay from where we last left off... **[THE POWER]:**

79 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY** 79

Tawna has begun to sweat. She takes a drag off her cigarette. Just then... a LOUD FART erupts from Caleb's crib... and the ENTIRE HOUSE BEGINS TO VIBRATE for several seconds as though there is an EARTHQUAKE.

Everyone stares at each other in shock.

The vibrating subsides.

JERICHO
Earthquake.

A look of horror appears on Muriel's face.

MURIEL
Everyone hit the floor!

80 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- NEXT** 80

Two BLACK SUBURBANS pull up in front of the house.

Tinted windows roll down and MASKED MEN holding AUTOMATIC WEAPONS appear. *They begin to unload a torrent of gunfire into the front of the house.*

81 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT** 81

The TORRENT OF BULLETS rips through the family room... shattering lamps... shredding wallpaper... furniture...

Muriel, Jericho and the rest of the COPS run for cover... some reaching for their SIDEARMS as they bury their faces into the cheap shag carpet.

Tawna McBride remains frozen... unable to move. She takes a BULLET TO THE CHEST... falling back on the couch.

82 **EXT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- NEXT** 82

The MASKED GUNMEN retreat back into the SUBURBANS with their weapons and drive off.

83 **INT. 1400 WANITO PLACE -- FAMILY ROOM -- NEXT** 83

Jericho rises to his feet and approaches the crib. Caleb stares back at him. The baby is unharmed. He even lets out a giggle.

JERICHO
He’s okay.

Another LOUD FART erupts from the crib.

The house begins to SHAKE once again. Another EARTHQUAKE.

Jericho turns to Muriel... as books and dishes fall from shelves. MacPherson pulls himself up off the floor.

MACPHERSON
What the Goddamn shit in hell is going on here?

The earthquake subsides. Muriel rises to her feet.

MURIEL
There isn’t much time. The men with guns will return soon. We must take baby Caleb away from this place.

JERICHO
Where?

MURIEL
Out into the desert. There is a black farmhouse... and a Chinese woman who we must speak with.

Jericho lifts baby Caleb out of the crib and turns to MacPherson.

JERICHO
Let’s do this thing.

84 **EXT. DESERT ROAD -- MOMENTS LATER** 84

The POLICE CRUISER drives out into the desert. In the distance... we see a BLACK FARMHOUSE perched up on the crest of a hill.

85 **EXT. BLACK HOUSE BARN -- MOMENTS LATER** 85

Jericho and his posse stand at the entrance to a LARGE BARN adjacent to the black farmhouse. He cradles BABY CALEB in his arms.

Jericho knocks on the barn door... and a SMALL DOOR opens... EYES PEERING OUT.

MOHAWKED MAN
What's the password?

JERICHO
Jericho Cane.

The BARN DOOR opens up. TWO ARMED GUARDS let them inside.

86 **INT. BLACK HOUSE BARN -- NEXT** 86

The BARN is filled with LARGE SNAKES that slither around the EXPOSED WOODEN BEAMS. SERPENTINE stands in the middle of the barn among the snakes.

SERPENTINE
My name is Serpentine.

Jericho sizes her up.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Don't look so scared Mista Cane.

Jericho cocks his head to the right to see a LARGE BOA CONSTRICTOR slithering down a beam... hissing at him.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Do not fear da snake.

Jericho hands BABY CALEB over to Muriel.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
I see that you have brought da child with you.

MURIEL
What is wrong with this baby?

SERPENTINE
Has he produced bowel movement yet?

MURIEL
No.

SERPENTINE
Does he pass gas?

JERICHO
Yes.

SERPENTINE
Does da earth shake when he pass gas?

MACPHERSON
You better fucking believe it.

SERPENTINE
Den he is da messiah. He has returned.

MURIEL
How can you be sure that this child is the messiah? What proof can you give us?

SERPENTINE
Let me look into his eyes.

Muriel steps forward so that Serpentine can see the baby up close.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
May I hold him?

Muriel looks over at Jericho... who reluctantly nods his head. She then hands baby Caleb over to Serpentine.

Serpentine looks into the baby's eyes and then begins to chant something in Chinese. She then holds the baby up in the air... and a HUGE BOA CONSTRICTOR slithers down from one of the ceiling beams and DEVOURS THE BABY.

MURIEL
NOOOOO!!!!!

Jericho and MacPherson watches as the BOA SWALLOWS BABY CALEB DOWN INTO ITS REPTILIAN GULLET. A LARGE BLOB inches its way down the snake's body.

Jericho and MacPherson pull their guns and aim them at the snake.

MACPHERSON
SHOOT THE FUCKER!

Serpentine then throws her body in front of the snake.

SERPENTINE
No! Wait!

Just then... a MASSIVE FART erupts from inside of the snake's gullet. The entire barn begins to shake with another EARTHQUAKE.

The BOA CONSTRICTOR BEGINS TO CONVULSE ON THE GROUND. The BLOB begins to undulate as BABY CALEB BEGINS TO FIGHT HIS WAY OUT.

Seconds later... one of baby Caleb's arms PUNCHES THROUGH THE REPTILIAN SKIN... spraying blood all over Serpentine and MacPherson.

MACPHERSON
WHAT THE FUCK IS IT?!

Baby Caleb RIPS OPEN THE SNAKE'S GULLET FROM INSIDE and peers his head out... laughing maniacally. He now looks like he is almost TWO YEARS OLD - *covered in blood.*

The boa constrictor convulses on the floor one last time and then dies.

SERPENTINE
HE IS DA MESSIAH!

Baby Caleb rips one more FART and the earth begins to shake once again.

We hear the sound of a CAR HORN...

87 **INT. CADILLAC -- NIGHT** 87

Fortunio is honking the HORN on the Cadillac... j*olting Boxer out of the screenplay.*

FORTUNIO
Come on! What's up with all of this traffic?

Boxer sees that they are stuck in GRIDLOCK TRAFFIC on the desert side road. There are hundreds of CARS up ahead and what appears to be SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE assembled for some sort of OUTDOOR EVENT.

KRYSTA
Look up ahead. The black farmhouse. That's where we're going.

Boxer looks into the distance and sees a BLACK FARMHOUSE and adjacent BARN perched up on a hill. *It is the exact same house that he just envisioned from the screenplay.*

88 **EXT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT** 88

Zora's CHEVY TRUCK is parked in the lot of a MACDONALD'S somewhere off the HIGHWAY.

89 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT** 89

Ronald and Zora are sitting at a table. Zora picks at a salad. Ronald is shoving his third BIG MAC down his throat.

ZORA
Are you trying to make yourself sick?

RONALD
No. I'm trying to make myself shit.

ZORA
Well... that'll do it.

90 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- BATHROOM -- LATER ON** 90

Ronald sits on the toilet inside the BATHROOM STALL... trying to defecate. It just isn't happening for him. There is a LOUD KNOCK on the bathroom door.

91 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT** 91

A FAT MAN (40's) and his fidgety YOUNG SON (8) are standing outside the bathroom. The man knocks angrily.

FAT MAN
Come on, man! My kid has to take a dump!

92 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- BATHROOM -- NEXT** 92

Ronald tries to concentrate.

RONALD
Just give me one more minute.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
No matter how hard he tried... Ronald Taverner could not produce a bowel movement.

93 **INT. MACDONALD'S RESTAURANT -- NEXT** 93

Ronald comes out of the bathroom. The FAT MAN throws him an angry look.

FAT MAN
Asshole!

Ronald finds Zora waiting for him.

ZORA
Any luck?

RONALD
No dice.

ZORA
See? My theory of evolution is coming true... right before your eyes.

94 **EXT. DESERT NEO-MARXIST RALLY -- NIGHT** 94

Boxer, Fortunio and Krysta wander through the CROWD. There are BOOTHS selling ART, HEMP CLOTHING and FOOD.

BOXER
Why are all of these people here?

FORTUNIO
It’s a Neo-Marxist rally.

Boker sees a huge KARL MARX BALLOON floating above the crowd. Krysta notices someone up on the MAIN STAGE.

KRYSTA
Look... it’s Dion and Dream!

UP ON STAGE... a WHITE WOMAN - DREAM (30’s) [AMY POEHLER], and her BLACK HUSBAND - DION ELEMENT (30’s) [WOOD HARRIS]... are speaking before the crowd.

BOXER
Who are Dion and Dream?

FORTUNIO
They are the leaders of the Neo-Marxist underground movement.

KRYSTA
I love her slam poetry. It’s so profound and political.

Dream is performing SLAM POETRY on stage.

DREAM
Spare me your corporate synergy!
Give me your tormented energy!

The CROWD ROARS.

DION
Word.

DREAM
Evolution is revolution!

The CROWD ROARS. Fortunio rolls his eyes.

FORTUNIO
What does that even mean?

DION
DESTROY CAPITALISM!

DREAM
DETHRONE GOD!

The CROWD ROARS. Krysta points toward the BLACK BARN adjacent to the BLACK FARMHOUSE.

KRYSTA
Come on... there's someone waiting to see us.

They move toward the barn.

95 **EXT. BARN -- MOMENTS LATER** 95

Boxer, Krysta and Fortunio stand at the entrance to the barn. Boxer looks over at Krysta... and then knocks on the door.

A SMALL WINDOW opens up and EYES PEER OUT.

MAN
What's the password?

BOXER
Jericho... Cane?

The door opens and JIMMY HERMOSA is there. Fortunio immediately recognizes him.

FORTUNIO
Well if it isn't Jimmy Hermosa!

HERMOSA
Fortunio Balducci.

They shake hands as Hermosa lets them inside.

KRYSTA
How do you know each other?

FORTUNIO
I live in Hermosa Beach, Krysta.

KRYSTA
Oh.

Inside the barn... SERPENTINE is pacing around... speaking CHINESE into her headset. Next to her is a MEDICAL TATOO CHAIR and several LAB TECHNICIANS who are loading up ELABORATE HIGH-TECH TATTOO INK GUNS.

On the wall behind them are LIGHT BOARD DISPLAYS of various TATTOOS.

HERMOSA
Serpentine will be with you in a moment.

Fortunio’s eyes widen upon seeing Serpentine.

FORTUNIO
Holy shit.

BOXER
Who is Serpentine?

FORTUNIO
She’s a Chinese ambassador... and the husband of Baron Von Westphalen.

BOXER
Baron Von...

FORTUNIO
He’s the richest man in the world. Invented Fluid Karma. Rumor has it that Serpentine is about to leverage another trillion dollar loan to the state of California

once the new energy policy clears.

Krysta stares at Serpentine in awe.

KRYSTA
She also dabbles in ancient Chinese sorcery and mysticism.
(beat)
I love her.

Serpentine removes her HEADSET and turns to face Boxer. He immediately begins to fidget... tapping his fingers together anxiously. She lights a CIGARETTE and slinks over toward him.

SERPENTINE
Don’t look so scared, Mr. Santaros. Da future... is just like you imagined.

BOXER
What do you want from me?

SERPENTINE
Are you prepared to wear da armor of God?

BOXER
What is the armor of God?

SERPENTINE
Tattoos. Custom ink from Treer products... Fluid Karma solution mixed with da blood of da snake.

Serpentine walks over and grabs a LARGE CARVING KNIFE. One of the TECHNICIANS holds a SNAKE down on a METAL TABLE. *She slams the knife down and chops the snake in half.*

The TECHNICIAN then squeezes a bunch of SNAKE BLOOD into a METAL PAN. Serpentine then points to the LIGHT BOARDS that show the various tattoo designs.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
One tattoo for each major religion of da earth inked upon your torso and back.

Boxer examines the tattoo designs. Among them is a STAR OF DAVID, the FACE OF JESUS CHRIST and various ISLAMIC, HINDU and BUDDHIST designs. There is also a RED ANARCHY SYMBOL with DEVIL HORNS.

Serpentine runs her hands across his body.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
And anarchy... inked upon da nape of your neck.

She touches the nape of Boxer's neck and he flinches.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Take off your shirt.

Boxer just stares at her. Jimmy Hermosa retrieves a GUN from under his jacket and aims it at Boxer.

HERMOSA
You heard the lady. Take off your fucking shirt. Right now.

Two additional ARMED GUARDS emerge from the shadows carrying AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. Fortunio and Krysta back away... holding their hands up.

Boxer begins to take off his shirt.

HERMOSA (CONT'D)
Lay down on the chair.

Boxer slowly walks over to the chair. The TECHNICIANS strap his arms down.

Serpentine turns to Fortunio and Krysta.

SERPENTINE
Dis going to take all night. Come back at sunrise.

Krysta looks over at Boxer... frightened.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Go! Enjoy da party!

Hermosa opens the barn door and escorts Fortunio and Krysta out as the TECHNICIANS begin to swab alcohol on Boxer's chest and charge up the INKING GUNS.

96 **EXT. DESERT NEO-MARXIST RALLY -- NIGHT** 96

Ronald and Zora are now wandering through the crowd. Zora notices Krysta and Fortunio walking by.

ZORA
Is that you... Krysta Now?

KRYSTA
Hey Zora.

Zora eyes her suspiciously.

ZORA
What brings you out to the desert? I've heard rumors that you're working as a psychic. Expanding your little porno empire.

KRYSTA
There's no need to be condescending, Zora. We had our fling... and now it's over.

Ronald notices that everyone in the crowd is now carrying a LARGE FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBE.

RONALD
What's with all the fluorescent tubes?

ZORA
You'll see.

Zora nods toward the stage. Dream is speaking once again.

DREAM
Ladies and gentleman... courtesy of the Baron... I give you

wireless electricity!

She retrieves one of the SPHERICAL TREER ANTENNAS and flips a SWITCH on it. It begins to GLOW. She holds it up and all of the FLUORESCENT BULBS THROUGHOUT THE CROWD ILLUMINATE IN UNISON.

The CROWD ROARS... holding up the GLOWING TUBES... which create a SURREAL DISPLAY OF LIGHT that illuminates the desert sky.

DREAM (CONT'D)
FLUID KARMA FOR THE WORLD!

The CROWD ROARS once again. Ronald and Zora stare at all of the glowing bulbs in awe.

The CAMERA PULLS UP AND AWAY from the DESERT RALLY... looking down at the SEA OF BLUE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS from high above.

97 **EXT. SKY ABOVE ARIZONA -- NIGHT** 97

A PRIVATE JET flies west somewhere over Arizona.

98 **INT. PRIVATE JET -- NEXT** 98

NANA MAE FROST (40's) [MIRANDA RICHARDSON] sits in the jet in front of a LARGE COMPUTER SCREEN. Her husband, SENATOR BOBBY FROST (50's) [HOLMES OSBORNE], is asleep in the next chair.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Nana Mae Frost had recently been appointed as deputy director of the NSA. Recent expansion of the patriot act had given her autonomy to eliminate potential terrorists on American soil.

She stares at SATELLITE VIDEO IMAGES of LAKE MEAD and a HOUSEBOAT floating in the lake.

NANA MAE
Are there children on the houseboat?

US-IDENT OP (COMPUTER)
No mam. Just the two Neo-Marxist operatives. They are transmitting intelligence as we speak.

NANA MAE
Is the drone within striking distance?

US-IDENT OP (COMPUTER)
Yes mam.

Nana Mae types in a series a LETTERS and NUMBERS on the LAUNCH CODE SCREEN.

NANA MAE
Transmitting launch codes now. Strike when ready.

Nana Mae then places her RIGHT HAND on a US-IDENT FINGERPRINT AUTHORIZATION SCANNER.

99 **EXT. LAKE MEAD -- HOUSEBOAT -- NIGHT** 99

TAB & EVE TAVERNER sit on the upper deck of the boat in front of a NETWORK OF LAPTOPS running an operating system called US-IDEATH... each attached to some sort of SCRAMBLING DEVICE.

There is a clear TUPPERWARE CONTAINER filled with SEVERED THUMBS ON ICE. Eve retrieves one of the SEVERED THUMBS with a pair of METAL THONGS and places it down on a FINGERPRINT SCANNER.

TAB
So who do you love more... Roland

or Ronald?

Eve smiles at her husband.

EVE
If I had to choose one?
(beat)
Ronald.

Tab nods his head slowly.

TAB
Me too.

They both begin to laugh.

100 **EXT. SKY ABOVE LAKE MEAD -- NEXT** 100

An UN-MANNED DRONE PLANE glides west through the sky above the lake. When it arrives within striking distance of the HOUSEBOAT... a MISSILE LAUNCHES from its right wing... charging down toward the water.

We follow the MISSILE as it flies over the surface of the glassy lake... and then HITS THE HOUSEBOAT... OBLITERATING IT IN A BRIGHT ORANGE EXPLOSIVE FIREBALL.

101 **TITLE CARD: <u>CHAPTER THREE - THE MECHANICALS</u>** 101

102 **EXT. LAX -- EARLY MORNING** 102

The PRIVATE JET descends into LAX.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
On the morning of July 2nd, 2008... the Senator and his wife made their descent into Los Angeles.

103 **INT. PRIVATE JET -- NEXT** 103

Senator Frost and Nana Mae prepare to exit the plane. A MAKE-UP ARTIST touches up Nan Mae's face.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
They were childhood sweethearts, born and raised in Abilene, Texas. They had one child. Her name was Madeline.

Senator Frost receives a TELEPHONE CALL.

FROST
Hello Madeline.

MADELINE (PHONE)
He's gone.

FROST
What?

104 **EXT. LAX -- TARMAC -- NEXT** 104

MADELINE FROST SANTAROS (28) [MANDY MOORE], Boxer's wife, stands on the TARMAC at LAX next to a LIMOUSINE. There are DOZENS of PRESS and CAMPAIGN SUPPORTERS there... many carrying signs that read: <u>ELIOT FROST '08</u>.

MADELINE
Boxer. He’s disappeared. I haven’t heard from him in five days.

FROST (PHONE)
Well... shit.

Senator Frost and Nana Mae emerge from the JET and begin to wave to CHEERING SUPPORTERS. Madeline watches anxiously.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
The marriage of Boxer Santaros and Madeline Frost had advanced the careers of many in Hollywood and Washington. A holy matrimony of convenience and publicity.

DSI: WEDDING PHOTOS of Boxer and Madeline from 2006.

DSI: NEWS REPORT about the arrival of SENATOR BOBBY FROST.

NEWS ANCHOR (VIDEO)
Republican vice-presidential candidate Bobby Frost arrived in the Southland early this morning. Frost is scheduled to attend the downtown launch of the Treer Mega-Zeppelin as the special guest of Baron Von Westphalen.

105 **INT. LIMOUSINE -- MOMENTS LATER** 105

Madeline now rides in the LIMOUSINE with Senator Frost and Nana Mae.

NANA MAE
I told you... marrying that lunatic would backfire. Fucking actors. They’re all nuts! Transient narcissists with paranoid delusional fantasies!

Frost holds his hand up to try and silence his wife.

FROST
Nana, please.

NANA MAE
Has he left you for another woman?

MADELINE
I don’t know.

FROST
When did you last see him?

MADELINE
We were at Santa Monica Pier on the morning of the 27th.

106 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- JUNE 27 2008** 106

There is a HUGE STAGE ERECTED south of SANTA MONICA PIER. THOUSANDS of people are in attendance. HUGE BANNERS advertizing TREER PRODUCTS and FLUID KARMA hang everywhere.

MADELINE (V.O.)
We were guests of the Baron... and Vaughn Smallhouse insisted that we attend.

BACKSTAGE... A REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN CONSULTANT named VAUGHN SMALLHOUSE (50's) [JOHN LARROQUETTE] stands with Madeline and Boxer. His aide, BRANDT HUNTINGTON (30's) [JOE CAMPANA] is lurking next to Madeline.

VAUGHN
Fluid Karma is the future of this country's energy policy. Learn it and love it - or your father will lose, Madeline.

BRANDT
Listen to him, Madeline. You have to learn how this stuff works.

Madeline is looking through a TREER PRODUCTS brochure.

MADELINE
Quantum teleportation? What the fuck does that mean?

Madeline looks over and sees that Boxer is injecting one of the Treer syringes into his neck. He is wearing a very polished and expensive suit.

MADELINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He was injecting this creepy syringe into his neck.

107 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- MOMENTS LATER** 107

Vaughn is now on stage with a MICROPHONE. There is a TREER SALTAIR SUV parked on the stage behind him.

VAUGHN
Ladies and gentleman... please welcome to the stage... the Wizard himself... Baron Von Westphalen!

The CROWD ROARS. The Baron takes the stage dressed in his flamboyant cape.

BARON
Thank you Soviet Monica... for the use of your ocean! Thank you for your beautiful pier! Thank you for helping us bring Fluid Karma to the Southland!

The CROWD ROARS.

BACKSTAGE... Boxer is thumbing through a TREER BROCHURE. Vaughn walks over to join them.

BOXER
Apparently the Baron is a descendent of Karl Marx.

MADELINE
Karl Marx?

BRANDT
He was a famous philosopher.

MADELINE
Duh! A socialist philosopher. A communist. The last time I checked... we're fucking Republicans.

VAUGHN
My dear... we are a few points away from winning California for the first time since 1988 and you father has to distance himself from big oil if he wants to win... and if that means associating with a Neo-Marxist... *so be it.*

Boxer smirks at his wife.

BOXER
The war machine is running out of gas, sweetheart.

Boxer heads toward the stage... Madeline follows.

108 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- TREER STAGE -- NEXT** 108

Boxer is now onstage with Madeline.

BOXER
Bio-diesel... ethanol... and the hybrid engines are not going to solve the energy crisis. Old habits die hard. The future is wireless energy.

Boxer and Madeline hold up the MECHANICAL SPHERE ANTENNAS.

MADELINE (V.O.)
We had to participate in this scavenger hunt. They buried all of these wireless energy antenna ball thingamajigs up and down the beach and we had to go digging for them.

109 **EXT. EL PORTO BEACH -- MIDDAY** 109

We see Boxer and a bunch of KIDS digging through the sand at the SCAVENGER HUNT ... retrieving the MECHANICAL SPHERES.

MADELINE (V.O.)
Boxer got really into it... and he was sprinting down the beach. I couldn't keep up. That was the last time I saw him.

We see Boxer SPRINTING down the beach in a piece of VIDEO SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE.

A DARK FIGURE wearing SUGLASSES featuring a TINY GLOWING CAMERA LIGHT sits inside of a TREER SALTAIR SUV parked near PCH... *watching him.*

110 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- LOADING DOCK -- MORNING** 110

Teena MacArthur is on the phone with someone. On a COMPUTER SCREEN... we see video surveillance footage of a WAREHOUSE filled with a 100 TREER SALTAIR SUVs.

TEENA
Yes - you've got a warehouse full of Treer Saltairs ready for shipment. But there is one that was released on the morning of the 27th without my authorization. The GPS system was disabled... and we don't know where the vehicle is.

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
The SUV was released to Serpentine, by permission of Baron Von Westphalen.

TEENA
Thank you, Dr. Exx. And it would have been nice to have been notified of this last week... as I'm only trying to supervise the launch of your revolutionary alternative fuel system on a dangerously accelerated schedule.

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
I sincerely apologize, Ms. MacArthur.

TEENA
And I'm holding a fucking dead body out here on my rig. Care to explain?

DR. EXX (TELEPHONE)
Ehh... I'll call you back.

He hangs up on her.

111 **EXT. BLACK FARMHOUSE BARN -- EARLY MORNING** 111

Krysta and Fortunio knock on the barn door at the BLACK FARMHOUSE. The SMALL WINDOW OPENS and Hermosa's EYES peer out at them.

HERMOSA
We're almost done with the tattoos. Give us one more hour.

He closes the window. Krysta sighs... *worried.*

112 **EXT. WINNEBAGO CAMP -- NEXT** 112

The NEO-MARXIST EVENT is now being disassembled as WORKERS clean up trash and pack up to leave. There is a SMALL CLUSTER OF WINNEBAGOS in the VIP area.

Ronald checks on Roland in the back of the CHEVY TRUCK. He is still sleeping peacefully on the gurney with the IV. Zora replaces the SALINE BAG.

He notices ROLAND'S BACKPACK sitting there. There is a SEALED LETTER inside. Ronald retrieves the letter. A name is written on it: PRIVATE ROLAND TAVERNER.

Zora approaches... and Ronald quickly shoves the letter into his pocket.

RONALD
It’s like he’s hibernating. I’ve never seen someone sleep for this long.
(beat)
Do you think he’s in a coma?

ZORA
Of course not. It’s this new drug. It affects people in different ways.

RONALD
Can you be a little more specific?

ZORA
No.

Ronald sighs in frustration. Zora notices that Dion and Dream have just emerged from their WINNEBAGO.

ZORA (CONT’D)
I want you to meet Dion and Dream.

Ronald and Zora walk over to greet them. Dream immediately recognizes Ronald... *staring him down with intense curiosity*.

DREAM
Well hello, Ronald.

RONALD
Hello... Dream.

DREAM
I understand you have amnesia. You don’t remember me?

RONALD
No. I’m sorry.

DREAM
We used to act together back in the day. Comedy stuff. Now that you’re a freak of nature... maybe we can try out some new material.

RONALD
Uhhh... yeah. Okay.

Dion walks over to join them.

DREAM
This is my husband Dion Element. You guys used to be roomies.

DION
Hey Roland.

Ronald shakes his hand.

RONALD
It’s Ronald.

DION
Right. That’s what I meant to say.

Zora notices that Fortunio and Krysta have arrived in the VIP area. *She rolls her eyes at Krysta.*

Dion does a double take upon seeing Krysta.

DION (CONT’D)
Are you Krysta Now?

KRYSTA
Hi Dion. I’m a huge fan.

DION
Shit... nobody rocks the cock like Krysta Now.

KRYSTA
Thank you.

DION
You tiny Jewish girls sure do know how to fuck.

DREAM
Uhhh.... excuse me? I’m standing right here.

Ronald looks at the table and sees up a copy of DION & DREAM’S latest SPOKEN WORD POETRY/RAP ALBUM. The title is: <u>MILKING THE DOG</u>.

RONALD
So... you guys are spoken word poets now?

DION
Among other things. We’re branching out.

DREAM
We've released four folk albums. We're publishing a memoir of free-associative thought... and we're in final negotiations to bring our tantric dance revue to Broadway.

FORTUNIO
Tantric dance?

Dream throws him a condescending look.

DREAM
It's like dancing and fucking at the same time. You should try it sometime after you lose a few pounds.

113 **EXT. TREER PLAZA -- DAY** 113

We soar above the THREE TOWERS of TREER PLAZA in DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES... just north of STAPLES CENTER. We see the MASSIVE MEGA-ZEPPELIN HANGAR positioned just south of the towers.

114 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 LOUNGE -- NEXT** 114

Senator Frost, Nana Mae, Vaughn, Brandt and Madeline are all assembled in the LOUNGE on one of the top floors of the TOWER 3.

VAUGHN
I'm hosting a party in the Baron's honor tomorrow night up at the house... and it is imperative that you show up.

NANA MAE
I don't trust him, Vaughn. He's a Neo-Marxist. He's playing us like a fiddle.

VAUGHN
We don't have any choice.

FROST
Bullshit.

VAUGHN
Bobby... we can't win this election without an endorsement from Baron Von Westphalen. We've got a real shot.
(MORE)

VAUGHN (CONT'D)
I am told his meeting with Hillary Clinton did not go well. Especially after she insulted his mother.

NANA MAE
Hah! I love it.

VAUGHN
And Serpentine is the key to securing more money out of China.

NANA MAE
That crazy Chinese bitch?! You've got to be kidding me.

VAUGHN
That crazy Chinese bitch has more money than whatever Chinese God she worships.

NANA MAE
They are setting a trap, Vaughn. The Baron cannot be trusted. He wants to destroy us.

Nana points out the window down at the Mega-Zeppelin hangar.

NANA MAE (CONT'D)
That blimp is a death trap and you know it.

VAUGHN
It's a Mega-Zeppelin, Nana Mae. Don't call it a blimp.

Frost looks at his watch.

FROST
The interview is supposed to start in half an hour.

MADELINE
What are we supposed to say when they ask about Boxer?

VAUGHN
I'll think of something.

115 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NEXT** 115

Baron, Inga and Serpentine are in the TREER EXECUTIVE OFFICE. They have the TOWER 3 LOUNGE WIRE-TAPPED... and are listening to the Senator's conversation.

FROST (RECORDING)
Where the hell is he, Vaughn?

VAUGHN (RECORDING)
Still no word. But not to worry. A man that famous can't stay hidden for long.

NANA MAE (RECORDING)
Something terrible has happened.

Baron smiles... then looks at his mother.

INGA
Serpentine just called. She says that the Armor of God tattoos are completed.

BARON
Excellent.

116 **EXT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- DAY** 116

The barn door opens and the TECHNICIANS roll Boxer out in a WHEELCHAIR. He is wearing his green hoodie... the tattoos concealed underneath. Krysta and Fortunio run over to see how he is doing.

FORTUNIO
How long until he recovers?

Serpentine emerges from the barn.

SERPENTINE
When he wakes up, he will be stronger than ever.

KRYSTA
Why did you do this to him?

SERPENTINE
Because he is da chosen one.
Chosen to wear da armor of God.
(beat)
When da true Messiah returns... da tattoo for da winning religion will bleed da blood of da serpent.

Fortunio rolls his eyes.

FORTUNIO
The winning religion? Is this some sort of religious competition?

SERPENTINE
Of course it is... you fool!

She points to Fortunio's CADILLAC.

SERPENTINE (CONT'D)
Now go! Follow da path!

FORTUNIO
Okay. What path do you suggest we follow?

SERPENTINE
Da path to end all suffering.

Serpentine then slams the barn door closed. Krysta shrugs... and Fortunio begins to push the WHEELCHAIR toward the car.

117 **EXT. WINNEBAGO CAMP -- MOMENTS LATER** 117

Dion and Dream watch as Fortunio drives over in the Cadillac. Boxer is unconscious in the passenger seat. Zora is finishing a PHONE CALL.

ZORA
Motherfucker! I'll call you back.

Zora hangs up her CELL PHONE and turns to Ronald.

ZORA (CONT'D)
We just received intel from the underground. Last night... your father's houseboat was hit with a missile from a drone US-IDENT aircraft flying over Lake Mead.

(beat)
Both of your parents were killed, Ronald.

Ronald looks overwhelmed with confused emotions. Zora goes to comfort him.

ZORA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Ronald. I really am.

Dream paces around in a fit of rage.

DREAM
It's Nana Mae Frost. She's murdering domestic freedom fighters with complete immunity through US-IDENT. We have got to take that bitch down.

DION
By any means necessary.

DREAM
Yeah... because you know who’s next on her death list?

DION
Us.

DREAM
Yep.

DION
We’re gonna have to go deep underground now. No more performing in public.

Dream nods her head in agreement.

DREAM
We have to sabotage their entire campaign! We have to humiliate her!

DION
Yeah... but how?

Fortunio - *listening to their every word* - steps forward.

FORTUNIO
I have an idea. It’s crazy... but it just might work.

Fortunio withdraws THE POWER screenplay and hands it over to Dream.

DREAM
What’s your idea?

FORTUNIO
Well... if you’re looking to create a political scandal... you’ve got all the elements in place.

Dream thumbs through the screenplay.

DREAM
I’m listening... tell me more about THE POWER.

Krysta looks confused and nervous.

118 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 STUDIO -- DAY** 118

Senator Frost and Nana Mae are seated in a STUDIO for a LIVE TELEVISION INTERVIEW. A FEMALE JOURNALIST (30's) [ROLE OPEN] is interviewing them.

JOURNALIST
Troops from all over America are now imbedded in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Iran and North Korea.
(beat)
The draft lottery is growing, and there appears to be no end to this conflict.

Frost and Nana Mae nod their heads.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)
How do you feel about inheriting this war from the current administration? How do you plan on resolving this conflict without using nuclear weapons?

Frost sighs.

BOBBY
Well... I think resolve can be found in prayer.

The Journalist furrows her brow.

JOURNALIST
Well... isn't it prayer that got us into this holy war to begin with? How can prayer bring our troops home?

Nana Mae interrupts.

NANA MAE
The lord works in mysterious ways. As Christians, we have God on our side, and eventually our enemies will see the light and they will be forced to accept Christ into their hearts.
(beat)
Or else.

Nana Mae offers a huge smile.

JOURNALIST
Or else.

NANA MAE
Or else they will be destroyed. We can no longer risk diplomacy. We thought it couldn't get any worse than 9/11... but we were wrong. It got worse. We can't afford to be wrong any more.

FROST
We will never forget Abilene and El Paso... and the evil men responsible for it must be destroyed.

JOURNALIST
Do you believe that this third world war, which has claimed more than a million casualties... will somehow accelerate the return of your lord and savior, Jesus Christ?

FROST
Yes we do. And it is unfortunate that you asked that question with such a condescending tone of voice.

JOURNALIST
I'm sorry if I came across that way.

Nana Mae pats her on the leg.... trying to make peace.

NANA MAE
Praise Jesus. For when he returns this war will finally be over.

119 **EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- DAY** 119

HELICOPTER SHOT: The CAMERA soars over UTOPIA 3 as the FLUID KARMA ENERGY BEAM spews up into the sky.

120 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NEXT** 120

Teena MacArthur is pacing around the UTOPIA 3 COMMAND CENTER. The LARGE HANGAR is filled with COMPUTER EQUIPMENT monitoring the REACTOR and the ENERGY FIELD broadcast from deep within the ocean below.

A LARGE DIGITAL MAP INTERFACE SCREEN - the ~~DOOMSDAY~~ SCENARIO INTERFACE - looms on the wall behind them.

The HIGH-TECH COFFIN - with the CORPSE inside of it - sits off to the side.

Teena is joined by SIMON THEORY (60's) [KEVIN SMITH], a LEGLESS, WHEELCHAIR-BOUND 5-STAR ARMY GENERAL with a long SILVER BEARD.

Simon appears to be playing a game of DUNGEONS & DRAGONS.

TEENA
Hey... Dungeon Master... do I have your full attention?

SIMON
Yes, Teena. What would you like to know?

TEENA
What the hell is going on out at Lake Mead? I've got reports that the president was just there.

SIMON
He was indeed just there. But now he's down in Orange county.

Teena zooms the DSI MAP into LAKE MEAD and the surrounding desert areas.

TEENA
As you know... we are currently broadcasting a wireless energy field that reaches across the surface of Lake Mead. The largest reservoir of water in the United States.

Teena pulls up a 3-D MAP of LAKE MEAD.

TEENA (CONT'D)
There are 28,500,000 gallons of water in that reservoir. Lake Mead has been experiencing massive temperature fluctuations. One day it's freezing cold... the next day it's like a jacuzzi.

SIMON
I'm intrigued. Please continue.

Teena then pulls up INFRARED MAPS of the ATMOSPHERE above Lake Mead.

TEENA
Now if you will look at these atmospheric diagnostics from the past three months when the Utopia 3 reactor began broadcasting... you'll see a dense concentration of carbon dioxide, methane... and some other gas that goes unrecognized by our instrumentation.

Teena shows the ANOMALOUS GAS floating above and around the lake.

TEENA (CONT'D)
And now... we have this mysterious sandstorm... which seems to have produced a maze. A maze which looks like it has some sort of intelligent design.

Teena pulls up a SATELLITE VIEW of the SAND MAZE. Simon rolls one of his DUNGEONS & DRAGONS dice pieces.

TEENA (CONT'D)
Simon Theory, keeper of all military secrets... please let the cat out of the proverbial bag before I roll that wheelchair off the edge of this rig and send you to your watery grave.

SIMON
You're so sexy when you're mad.

Simon withdraws a file from his bag and tosses it on the table. Printed on the cover of the thick file are the words: SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY - TOP SECRET.

TEENA
Serpentine Dream Theory.

Teena begins to read through the file.

121 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- DAY** 121

Serpentine enters the TREER EXECUTIVE OFFICE. Baron, Inga and Dr. Exx are all working there.

BARON
Serpentine!

She throws her arms around the Baron and kisses him.

BARON (CONT'D)
Where is Mr. Santaros now?

SERPENTINE
He is being hidden at da house of Fortunio Balducci in Hermosa Beach.

BARON
Excellent.

122 **EXT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- DAY** 122

We see surveillance footage of FORTUNIO'S BEACH HOUSE in HERMOSA BEACH.

123 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY** 123

Boxer sits on the couch in FORTUNIO'S BEACH HOUSE. He is reading THE POWER.

We ZOOM IN on the script page where we last left off...
[THE POWER]:

124 **INT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- AFTERNOON** 124

The boa constrictor convulses on the floor one last time and then dies.

SERPENTINE
HE IS DA MESSIAH!

Baby Caleb rips one more FART and the earth begins to shake once again.

125 **EXT. BLACK HOUSE -- BARN -- SUNSET** 125

Jericho and MacPherson are sitting outside of the barn. They are drinking BUD LIGHT and staring off at the setting sun.

MACPHERSON
We've been working on the force now for five years, Jericho. You know me well enough to know that I'm not a religious man. Hell, I've done my share of sinning in this life. I've done things I'm not proud of, and I've got four ex wives who will vouch for that.
(beat)
(MORE)

MACPHERSON (CONT'D)
But I believe we have witnessed a miracle. Baby Caleb has been touched by the hand of God. And that hand ripped its way through the skin of a boa constrictor.
(beat)
You cannot deny this responsibility to be his guardian and protector.

Jericho chugs another BUD LIGHT. He looks over at the barn entrance and sees Muriel emerge with BABY CALEB in her arms.

CALEB
Da-da.

Baby Caleb smiles at Jericho.

MURIEL
The fate of the world depends on you, Jericho.

Jericho takes another long chug of BUD LIGHT.

KRYSTA (V.O.)
Boxer!

126 **EXT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- FAMILY ROOM -- DAY** 126

Boxer is interrupted from reading the script by KRYSTA'S VOICE. He turns around and sees her standing there in the FAMILY ROOM.

KRYSTA
There's something I need to confess to you.

BOXER
I know that you do porn. I found one of our videos downstairs.

KRYSTA
Oh.

BOXER
You're very talented. I can see why we found each other.

Krysta smiles anxiously.

KRYSTA
That wasn't what I needed to confess. It's about THE POWER. The inspiration behind it.

Boxer's eyes widen in anticipation.

BOXER
Tell me.

KRYSTA
It all started with a flight I took from Dallas to Los Angeles three months ago.

127 **INT. UNITED FLIGHT 23 -- MARCH 30 2008 [FLASHBACK]** 127

Krysta sits in an AISLE SEAT on UNITED FLIGHT 23.

KRYSTA (V.O.)
Everything was fine... until we reached the sky over Lake Mead. All of a sudden... there was turbulence.

The plane begins to shake.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And then... everything became calm. There was this blinding white light streaming through the windows.

WHITE LIGHT blasts through the windows... casting the entire plane cabin in an ETHEREAL GLOW.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I looked around... and I saw a stewardess collapse to the floor. The whole plane became silent.

A STEWARDESS collapses. Krysta gets out of her seat to go help her.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And then I noticed that everyone else on the plane had fallen unconscious. I was the only one awake.

Krysta rushes around the cabin in a panic. Everyone is asleep except for her. She then moves toward the COCKPIT.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I tried to reach the cockpit. But the door was locked.

Just then... the WHITE GLOW dissipates and the TURBULENCE returns. People begin to wake up.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And then everything returned to normal. People started to wake up.

Krysta runs back into the cabin. It is CHAOS. People begin to SCREAM and YELL in confusion. Other people are PUKING into BARF BAGS.

KRYSTA (V.O.) (CONT'D)
They were screaming and puking. It was horrible.

128 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- DAY** 128

Teena is reading through the SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY file as Simon explains the same story about UNITED FLIGHT 23.

SIMON
Air traffic control received the following distress signal from United flight 23... en route from Dallas to Los Angeles.

Simon hits a button on his laptop and an AUDIO RECORDING of the DISTRESS SIGNAL begins to play.

PILOT (RECORDING)
Mayday... mayday! I... I don't know how to land this plane. My co-pilot and I are unsure of our location... we don't know where we are or how we even got here on this plane!

There is YELLING and SCREAMING in the background.

PILOT (RECORDING) (CONT'D)
SOMEONE PLEASE HELP US LAND THIS GODDAMN PLANE!

129 **EXT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- LATE AFTERNOON** 129

TWO MILITARY JETS escort the 747 on its descent into EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE.

SIMON (V.O.)
Miraculously... a military escort was able to assist the pilots in landing the plane safely at Edwards Air Force base.

PASSENGERS come down the SLIDE onto the TARMAC as EMERGENCY VEHICLES surround the plane.

SIMON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The plane was successfully evacuated... and there were no casualties.

Krysta appears in the doorway above the slide... wind blowing through her hair.

130 **INT. EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE -- HANGAR -- NIGHT** 130

DOCTORS are interviewing all of the PASSENGERS. They are all laid out on a bunch of COTS inside the HANGAR.

SIMON (V.O.)
As doctors began to evaluate the passengers and crew... one thing became certain. No one could remember a goddamn thing.

Simon, Inga and Dr. Exx are all interviewing Krysta among the COTS filled with PASSENGERS inside the HANGAR.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Everyone on flight 23 had been stricken with amnesia. Except for the one girl.

131 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NEXT** 131

Teena looks at the DOSSIER of INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS with KRYSTA LYNN KAPOWSKI.

TEENA
Krysta Lynn Kapowski.

SIMON
AKA... Krysta Now. And nobody rocks the cock like Krysta Now.

Teena rolls her eyes... then turns to her ASSISTANT.

TEENA
Can you please bring me a Full Throttle energy drink?

SIMON
For years the government has assigned a task force to try and penetrate the meaning of the Book of Revelation. Billions have been spent... and now... they've got a solid theory in place.

Teena's Assistant arrives with a FULL THROTTLE ENERGY DRINK. She cracks it open and takes a long swig.

TEENA
You have to be joking.

SIMON
I am 100 percent serious. Most of it is post 9/11 spending. And after the Texas attacks... the budget hit ten figures.

TEENA
A billion dollars in government spending to penetrate the meaning of Book of Revelation?

SIMON
Speaking of penetration, when was the last time you got laid, Teena?

TEENA
Uhh... we're fighting World War III... and trying to make sense of a fast encroaching environmental cataclysm that could extinguish all life on this planet. Who the fuck has time to get laid anymore?

SIMON
Hey... I ain't got no legs... I'm 64 years old... and I still find time to get laid.

TEENA
Well good for you. You know my theory on the apocalypse?

SIMON
Please tell.

TEENA
Everyone just stops breeding. Because really... what's the fucking point anymore?

132 **EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE -- AFTERNOON** 132

SIDEWALK CAFE in VENICE BEACH is crowded with customers. Ronald, Dion, Dream and Zora are among them.

DREAM
You haven't touched your breakfast, Ronald.

RONALD
I've given up.

DION
On eating?

RONALD
No matter how much I eat. It won't come out. I don't know where it all goes. I don't understand what's happening to me... and I want you to take me to a hospital.

ZORA
That wasn't part of the deal.

RONALD
But I don't remember making this deal. And now my parents are dead. I think that you need to take me and my brother to a hospital. There is something seriously wrong with us.

ZORA
It's too much of a risk, Ronald. You have to complete your mission.

RONALD
Okay. What exactly is my mission? Have you figured that out yet?

Zora exchanges glances with Dion and Dream.

DION
Boxer Santaros has amnesia... just like you.

DREAM
Amnesia is a mysterious condition.

DION
Krysta has Boxer convinced that he's going to direct this film... THE POWER.

DREAM
Directing and starring in it.

ZORA
He's playing an insane cop. His name is Jericho Cane.

Ronald's eyes widen.

RONALD
That name. I recognize that name.

133 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- AFTERNOON** 133

Fortunio comes into the family room. Boxer is obsessively reading through the script for THE POWER.

FORTUNIO
You know... have you considered going on a ride along?

BOXER
What do you mean?

FORTUNIO
With a real police officer. Go ride along with him in his squad car. Videotape his behavior so you can bring authenticity to Jericho Cane. You don't want him to be some cartoon.

BOXER
Of course not. It has to be real.

FORTUNIO
I can arrange a ride along for you. My friend Ronald is an UPU officer in Hermosa Beach. We can set it up for tomorrow morning.

BOXER
I'm in.

Fortunio smiles.

134 **EXT. SIDEWALK CAFE -- AFTERNOON** 134

Ronald continues his conversation with Dion, Dream and Zora. He looks very unhappy.

RONALD
So you want me to impersonate my brother. Drive this crazy movie star around while he interviews me about my job.

DION
That's right. And we want you to drop the N word.

RONALD
The N word?

DION
You do remember what the N word is... don't you?

RONALD
Nigger?

DION
Damn straight.

RONALD
But... I don't want to say the N word. I would never say that word... is my brother some kind of racist?

ZORA
No Ronald. Of course not.

RONALD
Would he approve of this?

DREAM
Yes.

ZORA
Sweetheart... you have to play the role of a racist cop. Those racist UPU motherfuckers have been killing innocent people - and a lot of them are black. Your brother witnessed these fascist atrocities.

DREAM
You made a deal. If you don't live up to your end of the deal...

there are going to be repercussions.

RONALD
Are you threatening me?

DREAM
If you don't follow through with this plan, you'll never see your brother again.

ZORA
Do you love your brother, Ronald?

RONALD
Of course.

ZORA
Then say the N word.

Ronald sighs angrily.

RONALD
Fine. What else?

DREAM
Dion and I are going to stage a domestic dispute at my mother's house on Nowita. Zora will call it in as a noise complaint.
(beat)
Boxer follows you in with his video camera... and you have to pretend to shoot us.

DION
It will be all blanks and squibs... just like in the movies. Dream and I are going to stage our own deaths and then disappear underground.

ZORA
A brutal double murder.

DREAM
The assassination of two Venice Beach cultural icons. The death of Dion and Dream.

DION
Committed by a racist cop.

ZORA
Caught on tape by a movie star with political ties.

DREAM
Ties to the great Senator from Texas and the fascist queen of US-IDENT... Nana Mae Frost.

RONALD
This is insane.

ZORA
We live in an insane world, Ronald.

DREAM
Sometimes the only way to confront insanity is to give it a dose of its own medicine.

RONALD
But that doesn't make any sense.

DION
You gotta trust us on this one, Ronald.

DREAM
Revolutions are the locomotives of history... and this locomotive is about to leave the station.

ZORA
Pack your bags... because tomorrow morning... it's on, you little bitch.

Ronald sinks down into his chair.

135 **EXT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- SUNSET** 135

We see the NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND on the Venice Beach STRIP. There are PEOPLE lurking on the balconies... and the building is covered in NEO-MARXIST POSTERS.

136 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- BEDROOM -- NEXT** 136

Ronald stares at Roland... who is asleep in a bed in one of the back BEDROOMS. Zora comes in to replace his IV FEEDING TUBE.

ZORA
You need to stay clear of your brother. He needs his rest.

137 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- HALLWAY -- MOMENTS LATER** 137

Zora and Ronald exit the bedroom and Zora closes and LOCKS the door behind her.

ZORA
Come on... let's go take a walk. You need some fresh air.

138 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- NIGHT** 138

Ronald stares at the ENVELOPE with PRIVATE ROLAND TAVERNER written on it. He opens it and retrieves a HAND-WRITTEN LETTER. He then begins to read it out loud.

RONALD
Dear Roland... I know you are frightened but it is worth the risk. Trust me on this. You will endure, as you always have.

(MORE)

RONALD (CONT'D)
(beat)
See you on the other side. Your friend... Pilot Abilene.

Zora walks over with ICE CREAM as Ronald puts the letter away.

RONALD (CONT'D)
Zora, who is Pilot Abilene?

ZORA
He's a famous soldier. A movie star who got drafted. The government has turned him into a war hero after his injury.

Zora points to a HUGE BILLBOARD over the SANTA MONICA PIER with a PHOTOGRAPH of PILOT ABILENE (27) [JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE]. It is an ARMY RECRUITMENT AD. *Pilot has a deep scar running down one side of his face.*

The BILLBOARD SLOGAN reads: NEVER SURRENDER.

ZORA (CONT'D)
Your brother was close friends with him... until...

RONALD
Until what?

Zora smiles awkwardly.

ZORA
Nothing sweetie.

Ronald stares Pilot's face on the billboard - *transfixed.*

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
My name is Pilot Abilene. Your humble narrator.

139 **DOOMSDAY SCENARIO INTERFACE [DSI]:** 139

DSI: Animation shows the SUBURBS OF ABILENE, TEXAS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
I was born in the town of Abilene, Texas. Son of an Air Force fighter pilot.

DSI: PHOTOGRAPHS of YOUNG PILOT (6) with his FATHER (30) in front of a FIGHTER JET at DYESS AFB... 7 miles southwest of Abilene.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I moved to Los Angeles when I was twenty-one years old.

DSI: A GREYHOUND BUS crests a hill on the 10 FREEWAY... revealing LOS ANGELES in the distance. Pilot looks out the window of the bus.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I had always wanted to act... and luck was kind to me.

DSI: PILOT (21) sits in line with a bunch of YOUNG ACTORS at an audition somewhere in Hollywood.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I landed a television role on my very first audition.

DSI: A CAMERA ASSISTANT holds a SLATE in front of Pilot's face and he prepares to shoot a scene from a TELEVISION SHOW.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The show wasn't very good. But it didn't matter. It was a huge hit and ran for five seasons.

DSI: Pilot appears in the credit sequence for a cheesy show called MALIBU INCORPORATED.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I became a star, almost overnight.

DSI: Pilot walking down a RED CARPET in front of DOZENS OF CAMERAS and FLASHBULBS.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And then... fate punched me in the face. Someone nuked my hometown... killed my family. And then I got drafted.

DSI: Pilot sits on his bed... staring at a DRAFT NOTICE.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Elvis had it easy. They sent me to Baghdad.

DSI: Pilot stands in a MILITARY LINE-UP as an OFFICER SCREAMS obscenities in his face.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Everyone in my unit assumed I was afraid. They called me pretty boy.

DSI: Pilot walks alone through a MILITARY CAMP in BAGHDAD. Other SOLDIERS stare at him.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But then I started killing people.

DSI: Pilot fires an AUTOMATIC WEAPON in the middle of an URBAN BATTLE ZONE... killing an IRAQI INSURGENT.

140 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- TENT -- DAY** 140

Pilot lays on his BED in LARGE MILITARY TENT. He is reading the novel <u>FLOW MY TEARS, THE POLICEMAN SAID</u> by PHILIP K. DICK.

ROLAND TAVERNER arrives at the bed next to him and throws his bag down. The two men make eye contact.

ROLAND
Hey there. Roland Taverner.

Roland reaches out his hand and Pilot shakes it.

PILOT
Pilot Abilene.

ROLAND
Yeah, I know who you are.

Pilot goes back to his book.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
So... are you a big fan of Dick?

Pilot lowers the book and furrows his brow.

PILOT
I beg your pardon?

Roland looks embarrassed.

ROLAND
Philip K. Dick. Have you ever read Man In The High Castle? It's amazing.

PILOT
Not yet. What's it about?

ROLAND
It takes place in an alternate history where Hitler and the Axis powers won World War II.

Roland retrieves a copy from his bag.

Roland retrieves a copy from his bag.

PILOT
When you're done with that one... you can borrow my copy.

Pilot smiles.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
From that moment on... we were inseparable.

141 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- MESS HALL -- DAY** 141

Pilot and Roland are eating with a group of SOLDIERS in the MESS HALL. Everyone is laughing out loud.

142 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- SHOWERS -- MORNING** 142

Pilot and Roland pass each other in the SHOWERS. They smile awkwardly at each other.

143 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- DAY** 143

Roland and Pilot sit in a BIRD'S NEST TOWER somewhere in the IRAQI DESERT outside of Baghdad. Roland is looking through a pair of HIGH-TECH BINOCULARS.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS: He sees a US ARMY MEGA-ZEPPELIN approaching in the sky.

ROLAND
Look... Mega-Zeppelin.

PILOT
No shit? Let me see...

Pilot takes the binoculars and looks through them.

144 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- NIGHT** 144

Pilot stands guard in the BIRD'S NEST while Roland sleeps. Pilot yawns... then glances over at Roland and laughs to himself at something.

145 **EXT. IRAQI DESERT -- BIRD'S NEST -- DAY** 145

Roland and Pilot are both hunched over with their PRECISION SNIPER RIFLES positioned on the edge of the BIRD'S NEST.

COMMANDER (RADIO)
Alright. Private Taverner... your target is in sight. Permission to shoot, over.

THROUGH ROLAND'S SCOPE: He sees an IRAQI INSURGENT emerge from a VAN and walk toward a BUILDING. He follows the Iraqi with his CROSS-HAIRS aimed square on his chest.

Roland inches his FINGER AGAINST THE TRIGGER... but hesitates.

COMMANDER (RADIO) (CONT'D)
Permission to shoot, over.

THROUGH ROLAND'S SCOPE: He follows the Iraqi as he approaches the building, but still doesn't shoot.

PILOT
What are you waiting for? You're gonna lose him any second now.

Pilot sees that Roland's HAND HAS BEGUN to tremble.
Pilot quickly goes back to his PRECISION RIFLE and aims.

THROUGH PILOT'S SCOPE: He aims the CROSS-HAIRS on the Iraqi's chest... and just before he reaches the building... FIRES HIS ROUND. The bullet HITS THE IRAQI in the chest and he falls over... dead.

PILOT (CONT'D)
Target eliminated, over.

Roland falls back on the floor... hyperventilating.

PILOT (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ. You kill anyone out here yet?

ROLAND
No. How about you?

PILOT
That was my fifth kill.

ROLAND
Does the American press know about that yet? They'd have a field day.

PILOT
Naw... my publicist. She's real good.

ROLAND
Wow. I wish I was important enough to have a publicist.

PILOT
You will be one day.

146 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- NIGHT** 146

Pilot and Roland both lay on their BEDS in the base tent. Pilot is thumbing through his Bible.

PILOT
You ever read the Book of Revelation?

ROLAND
I know we're supposed to. And I tried... but I just can't get through it.

PILOT
Yeah... it's a tough one to crack. They way they lay it out... it just takes too goddamn long. A thousand years of this... a thousand years of that.

ROLAND
Serpents... lambs... archangels... beasts and whores. I can't keep track of them all. It's so complicated and insane.

PILOT
Oh lord, just end this mess of a planet already.

ROLAND
Quick and painless.

They both break out into hysterical laughter.

147 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- MESS HALL -- DAY** 147

Roland arrives at the table to find Pilot eating alone.

ROLAND
I just got off the phone with my father.

PILOT
Yeah? Was he in the military too?

ROLAND
Yeah. My dad served in the Army back in Vietnam. Then in the early 90's he became the mayor of Hermosa Beach... where I'm from.

PILOT
Is he retired now?

ROLAND
Not exactly. Now he's gotten caught up in the Neo-Marxist underground.

PILOT
That's a whole new war for him to fight.

ROLAND
He says there's someone he wants us to meet out here.

148 **INT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- PHONE CENTER -- EARLIER** 148

Roland is on the phone with TAB in the PHONE CENTER.

TAB (PHONE)
His name is Simon Theory. He's an old friend. I've made special arrangements for you to go see him tomorrow night.

149 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- NIGHT** 149

We see the entire MILITARY BASE. MILITARY TRUCKS drive by and HELICOPTERS circle overhead... as a LARGE MEGA-ZEPPELIN is parked on the AIRSTRIP.

Roland and Pilot approach a SMALL TENT positioned near the edge of the base.

150 **INT. SIMON'S TENT -- MOMENTS LATER** 150

Roland and Pilot step into SIMON THEORY'S TENT.

Simon sits in his WHEELCHAIR behind a CUSTOM DESIGNED BLACKJACK TABLE. There are several LAPTOPS running on tables behind him... along with DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME PARAPHERNALIA.

ROLAND
Are you Simon Theory?

SIMON
I am. You must be Roland Taverner and Pilot Abilene.

ROLAND
My father sent us here.

SIMON
I know that. Do you guys like blackjack?

151 **INT. SIMON'S TENT -- MOMENTS LATER** 151

Simon is dealing BLACKJACK cards. Pilot and Roland are sharing a JOINT that he has rolled for them.

SIMON
So have you guys heard about the drug experiments?

ROLAND
No.

SIMON
Baron Von Westphalen has signed an extensive contract with the United States Army. He has been given permission to conduct top secret drug experiments on soldiers. The Baron has given me the authority to select a small group of soldiers who I deem fit to be experimented upon.

PILOT
What's the risk?

SIMON
There are side effects... but they appear to be extremely positive ones. And regardless of your response to the drug... you'll get to go home... very soon.

Pilot and Roland exchange smiles.

PILOT
I'm in.

ROLAND
I'm definitely in.

Simon withdraws a SMALL METAL CASE and removes one of the TREER SYRINGES.

SIMON
Gentleman... it is a privledge to introduce you to the elixir of God. Who wants to go first?

152 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- LATER** 152

Roland and Pilot emerge from the TENT with COTTON SWABS taped to their necks. *They both look like they are in a state of bliss from the drug.*

They both look up at the GLOWING ARMY MEGA-ZEPPELIN in awe as it begins to rise up into the sky.

153 **EXT. BAGHDAD MILITARY BASE -- DAWN** 153

Roland and Pilot stand next to each other as their COMMANDING OFFICER barks orders at their ENTIRE UNIT.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
The next morning... we were called into a mission to Fallujah.

Roland turns to Pilot.

ROLAND
How do you feel?

PILOT
I feel amazing.

Pilot smiles at Roland as they charge forward with their unit towards WAITING HELICOPTERS.

154 **EXT. FALLUJAH -- SUNRISE** 154

A FLEET OF ARMY HELICOPTERS flies over the city of FALLUJAH en route to battle.

155 **INT. MILITARY HELICOPTER -- NEXT** 155

Roland and Pilot are piled inside of the HELICOPTER with the rest of their unit. Roland looks like he’s going to be sick. *Pilot begins to yell over the roar of the chopper.*

PILOT
ROLAND.

ROLAND
WHAT?

PILOT
DON'T BE AFRAID. IT WILL ALL WORK OUT IN THE END.

Roland smiles at his friend.

ROLAND
OKAY.

PILOT
HERE... TAKE MY I-POD. THE MUSIC HELPS CALM MY NERVES BEFORE I DROP INTO BATTLE.

Pilot hands over his I-POD to Roland... who puts the EARPIECES into his ears. He turns up the volume... listening to the song "ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE" by THE KILLERS.

Pilot smiles and winks at Roland as the HELICOPTER lands in the middle of the FALLUJAH BATTLEGROUND.

The SOLDIERS exit the HELICOPTER in formation... charging down a FALLUJAH STREET as GUNFIRE rattles in the distance. The KILLERS SONG echoes in Roland's head.

156 **EXT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- MOMENTS LATER** 156

The UNIT approaches the entrance to an ABANDONED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL that is now the headquarters of an IRAQI INSURGENCY GROUP.

They come to a rest behind a LARGE TRUCK parked near the entrance of the school. Their COMMANDING OFFICER pulls out a MAP of the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

COMMANDER
The target of this raid is Abu Omar al-Baghdadi. He has taken over this abandoned elementary school.

He points to the map... and everyone looks on.

COMMANDER (CONT'D)
When we enter the school... we will break off into two teams.

157 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- MOMENTS LATER** 157

Roland and his TEAM maneuver their way down the NORTH CORRIDOR of the dilapidated school building... and Pilot and his TEAM maneuver SOUTH.

158 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER** 158

Roland comes into an abandoned CLASSROOM... and his VISION BEGINS TO CLOUD WITH LIQUID DISTORTION.

Suddenly... the CLASSROOM IS FILLED WITH YOUNG CHILDREN SITTING AT THEIR DESKS SOMETIME IN THE PAST. A LITTLE GIRL LOOKS OVER AND MAKES EYE CONTACT WITH HIM.

Roland jolts back against the wall and the LIQUID DISTORTION fades away.

Seconds later... GUNFIRE rips through the wall next to him and he sprints for cover in the adjacent HALLWAY.

Several IRAQI SOLDIERS move past... firing at other members of his unit.

159 **INT. FALLUJAH SCHOOL -- CLASSROOM -- MOMENTS LATER** 159

Roland comes into another classroom as EXPLOSIONS rock the foundation of the building - quickly filling up with SMOKE... clouding his vision.

LIQUID DISTORTION returns as Roland BLEEDS through time... seeing more CHILDREN laughing through the smoke.

ACROSS THE ROOM... someone begins to FIRE HIS WEAPON through a BROKEN WINDOW. Roland hears the SCREAMS OF THE IRAQIS behind him.

Roland cannot see who it is through the window... and he begins to PANIC... disoriented by the drug.

Roland reaches for a GRENADE attached to his belt. He REMOVES THE PIN... and then tosses the GRENADE through the WINDOW.

It lands right next to the SOLDIER... and when the smoke clears... we reveal that it is PILOT who had fired the weapon.

He looks down at the GRENADE in horror.

PILOT
Shit.

Pilot backs away from the grenade as fast as he can... and it EXPLODES seconds later.

SLOW MOTION: We see SHRAPNEL FROM THE GRENADE HIT PILOT IN THE FACE... as he falls back to the ground.

AS THE SMOKE CLEARS... Roland comes through the rubble to

discover Pilot laying there... his face covered in BLOOD.

ROLAND
PILOT!

Roland looks down at his friend in horror.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
OH NO! NO! JESUS CHRIST... PILOT!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!

Roland begins to CALL FOR A MEDIC as the sound of GUNFIRE and EXPLOSIONS continues.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Friendly Fire.
(beat)
He was my best friend. And that was the last time we saw each other.

Pilot stares up at his best friend in agony.

160 **EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- NIGHT** 160

An ARMY HELICOPTER flies toward UTOPIA 3 from the SANTA MONICA COAST... the GLOWING ENERGY BEAM illuminates the night sky.

We reveal Pilot Abilene in the PASSENGER SEAT of the Helicopter.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Being a disfigured war hero has its perks. Not only does your face appear on propaganda billboards... you get your own private helicopter service.

The HELICOPTER lands on the UTOPIA 3 HELIPAD.

161 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER** 161

Pilot walks into the COMMAND CENTER with a BACKPACK. Teena and Simon are there working.

SIMON
Well if it isn't Pilot Abilene.

PILOT ABILENE
I brought you some fresh weed.

Pilot withdraws a LARGE BAG OF WEED and hands it to Simon. He gives it a good sniff.

TEENA
Still bleeding?

Pilot examines a TREER SYRINGE. This is a BRAND NEW... even more advanced model with FIVE COLORED LIGHTS on it. GREEN... BLUE... YELLOW... ORANGE... RED.

Pilot sets the syringe on BLUE.

PILOT
Depends on the color channel.

SIMON
Neurotransmission between test subjects... dimensional shifts in time... I told you the side effects were fun.

Pilot points to his disfigured face.

PILOT
This hasn't been fun.

SIMON
At least you've got your legs, soldier.

TEENA
You're more beautiful now, Pilot. And you still haven't completely healed yet. The scarring will dissipate.

PILOT
God bless the elixir of God.

Pilot injects himself in the neck.

TEENA
Have you heard from Roland?

PILOT
No. Roland is on a mission of his own.

Pilot glances at Simon with a smile.

PILOT (CONT'D)
But I sent him a letter.

162 **INT. HERMOSA BEACH HOUSE -- EVENING -- LATE AFTERNOON** 162

Boxer comes into the FAMILY ROOM. Krysta is there watching the 1955 film noir KISS ME DEADLY starring RALPH

MEEKER on the flat-screen.

BOXER
What are you watching?

KRYSTA
Kiss Me Deadly.

Boxer stares at the screen... where Ralph Meeker comes stumbling through the MALIBU BEACH HOUSE as WHITE LIGHT EXPLODES from the NUCLEAR BOX.

BOXER
Never seen it.

KRYSTA
I think it's based on the Lita Ford song.

BOXER
I'm going to go take a walk on the beach... clear my head. I've got a big day tomorrow.

KRYSTA
Okay. I'm going out to meet the girls. Don't wander off too far.

Boxer smiles and then walks down the stairs.

163 **EXT. MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA -- NIGHT** 163

Krysta walks down MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA toward O'BRIEN'S PUB. Her CELL PHONE begins to ring.

KRYSTA
Hello?

BARON (PHONE)
Is this Krysta Now?

KRYSTA
Yes.

BARON (PHONE)
This is Baron Von Westphalen.

Krysta stops in her tracks... looking around anxiously.

164 **INT. O'BRIENS PUB -- BACK ROOM -- NIGHT** 164

Zora is performing a VULGAR STAND UP COMEDY routine in the back room of the pub. She is clearly ripping off Sam Kinison... screaming out loud. The ROWDY NEO-MARXIST CROWD is eating it up.

165 **INT. O'BRIENS PUB -- MAIN ROOM -- LATER ON** 165

Krysta arrives at the table where her PORN STAR FRIENDS are seated. They are SHOSHANA COX (30) [JILL RITCHIE], SHEENA GEE (27) [ABBEY MCBRIDE] and DEENA STORM (26) [GIANNA LUCHINI].

SHOSHANA
I love hip hop culture. Those hip hop stars are so brave... overcoming all of that adversity in the inner cities and learning how to rap.

DEENA
I love fucking rappers.

SHEENA
Me too. They have such big dicks!

The girls all laugh out loud and TOAST CHAMPAGNE as Krysta arrives at the table.

KRYSTA
Girls... I think I just landed us an A-list dancing gig.

SHOSHANA
Oh my God, really?

KRYSTA
July 4th. It's gonna be epic.

166 **EXT. MANHATTAN BEACH -- NIGHT** 166

Boxer walks north on the sand of MANHATTAN BEACH... approaching EL PORTO. He is alone... his HOOD RAISED.

PILOT ABILENE (V.O.)
Boxer was drawn to the ocean... which had a calming effect.

167 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NIGHT** 167

Teena reaches the end of the SERPENTINE DREAM THEORY file. She tosses it back on the table.

TEENA
So the analysis of all the data concludes that there is a PRIMER. A primer that will serve as a catalyst for the messiah's return.

Simon exhales a plume of marijuana smoke. He hands the joint to Pilot.

SIMON
That is correct.

TEENA
And what form does this primer take? A burning bush? A mystical unicorn of some sort?

Simon begins to type on his laptop.

SIMON
We have arrived at a series of letters.

Simon pulls up a SERIES OF LETTERS on the DSI screen.

They are: **E A T R M A U R V E I N F K**

SIMON (CONT'D)
We have no idea what the letters mean... but we did run an anagram formula to see what they could spell out for us.

Simon hits another key... and the LETTERS begin to list out in the ANAGRAM FORMATIONS.

SIMON (CONT'D)
The only ones that are even remotely discernible are FREAK MAN VIRTUE... and MARTIN KEFAUVER.

Simon highlights the PHRASES in the long list of LETTERS:

FREAK MAN VIRTUE

MARTIN KEFAUVER

Pilot furrows his brow... thinking to himself.

PILOT
Wait a minute. Martin Kefauver. I recognize that name.

SIMON
Really? We couldn't find anyone of significance with that name.

PILOT
Dr. Kefauver is my plastic surgeon. His son's name is Martin. They live in Beverly Hills.

SIMON
Well I'll be. What are the odds?

168 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 EXECUTIVE OFFICE -- NIGHT** 168

Dr. Exx enters the EXECUTIVE OFFICE to find Inga working studying the LIGHT WALL featuring the BOOK OF REVELATION ANALYSIS.

DR. EXX
Katarina Kuntzler has just arrived in Los Angeles.

Inga smiles.

INGA
My dearest Katarina... just in time.

169 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 1 APARTMENT -- NEXT** 169

Baron Von Westphalen lays in his MASSIVE ROUND BED in silk pajamas. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES is visible in the atrium windows of their penthouse. Serpentine lays next to him... feeding him GRAPES.

BARON
You would never betray me, would you Serpentine?

SERPENTINE
Never.

Serpentine stares off into space.

170 **INT. TREER PLAZA -- TOWER 3 APARTMENT -- NEXT** 170

Nana Mae paces around the LUXURY PENTHOUSE in the adjacent TREER TOWER. Senator Frost and Madeline are both drinking SCOTCH from the MINIBAR.

The TELEVISION plays a NEWSCAST.

NEWS ANCHOR (TELEPHONE)
The Clinton-Lieberman campaign has a mere two point lead in the latest California poll, where Eliot-Frost stands to capture the 55 electoral votes that could decide the entire election this fall.
(beat)

In other news...

(MORE)

NEWS ANCHOR (TELEPHONE) (CONT'D)
Boxer Santaros was mysteriously absent from his wife's side during today's fund-raiser for Veteran's disability...

NANA MAE
Fucking actors. Never trust an actor! They are the most unreliable people on the planet!

She glares at Madeline.

NANA MAE (CONT'D)
You should have never let that paranoid schizophrenic maniac into this family. This will ruin us!

Frost steps forward to defend his daughter.

FROST
Don't you blame her! You knew that the marriage contract would raise our profile!

MADELINE
I said three years... you said five!

Nana Mae gasps at her daughter in outrage.

NANA MAE
Well if you're gonna enter into a sham of a marriage you might as well make it count.

FROST
Hell... who knows if you would have gotten the NSA appointment without all the publicity he brought to the table. Americans love him.

MADELINE
We owe him everything.

FROST
Boxer Santaros is a good man. And if he's gotten himself into trouble... I bet it's not his fault. Don't jump to conclusions.

Vaughn and Brandt enter. Vaughn goes to comfort Nana Mae.

VAUGHN
Tomorrow morning, you will have every surveillance resource in this city at your disposal. Boxer Santaros cannot elude the watchful eye of US-IDENT.

171 **INT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- COMMAND CENTER -- NIGHT** 171

Teena is packing up her bags. Her ASSISTANT follows her around like a lap dog.

SIMON
What are you doing?

TEENA
I'm headed to the remote command center at the base of Santa Monica pier. If there's a meltdown out here... I can't risk going down with this rig. I'm too Goddamn important.

PILOT
Hey, Teena. We should celebrate... before it's too late.

Teena stops and turns at the entrance to the hangar.

TEENA
If the baby fart-pocalypse does occur before we meet again... let me say this now. It has been a joy knowing you two.

172 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- BEACH -- NIGHT** 172

Boxer has walked all the way to the SANTA MONICA PIER. Boxer stares off at the CRASHING OCEAN WAVES as the FERRIS WHEEL and ROLLERCOASTER of SANTA MONICA PIER loom behind him.

173 **EXT. MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA -- NIGHT** 173

Krysta comes down the ALLEY behind MAIN STREET alone. She has her phone to her ear.

KRYSTA
I'm in the alley. Where are you?
Someone emerges from the shadows and slams her up against the wall. It is Fortunio.

FORTUNIO
Hello Krysta.

KRYSTA
Fortunio.

He puts the GUN to her head.

FORTUNIO
Boxer has disappeared. He's not at the beach house. What did I tell you about letting him wander off?

KRYSTA
He said he went for a walk on the beach. He'll come back to me. Don't worry about it.

FORTUNIO
Really? You can predict the future?
(beat)
I'm on to you. I know all about your special powers.

She struggles against him... trying to free herself.

KRYSTA
Let me go.

FORTUNIO
Not before you prove it to me. Read my mind. Tell me something about my future.

Krysta stares into his eyes.

KRYSTA
You kill people for money. You moonlight as a hired assassin for the Neo-Marxist underground. And you will kill again... very soon.

Fortunio smiles and laughs nervously to himself.

FORTUNIO
Let me make something clear. I don't give a rat's ass about politics. I don't care who wins the election.

KRYSTA
If you don't care... then why do you have a gun to my head?

FORTUNIO
Because there are millions of dollars at stake here. I stumbled across the opportunity of a lifetime out there in the desert and I will not let you fuck it up!
(beat)
You will play ball... or I will put a bullet in your head.

He lowers the gun... then looks both ways... and walks off down the alley.

KRYSTA
You don't know who you're dealing with.

FORTUNIO
You better pray that he comes back to us.

Krysta looks like she is about to cry. Shoshana, Deena and Sheena appear at the end of the alley... drunk, carrying a bottle of CHAMPAGNE.

SHEENA
Krysta! Come back to the party!

Krysta pulls herself together and walks back.

174 **EXT. UTOPIA 3 FACILITY -- VIEWING PLATFORM -- NIGHT** 174

Simon and Pilot are now on the VIEWING PLATFORM at the top of the UTOPIA 3 structure. The MASSIVE GLOWING BEAM OF ENERGY illuminates the sky above them... making for a spectacular view.

SIMON
You know... the entire concept of a primer has very specific implications about the messiah.

Simon hands pilot the JOINT, and he takes a drag.

PILOT
And what are those implications?

SIMON
That there is a very specific and limited window of space and time in which the messiah can return.
And it is our responsibility as a species to make sure that we don't screw up our one chance at eternal

salvation.

PILOT
I don't know about you... but I want out. I don't want the whimper. I want the bang. I don't want to have to watch this mangled face of mine grow old in the mirror.

SIMON
You and me both. But the battle is about to get ugly.

The two disfigured veterans stare at the energy beam and smoke the remains of the joint.

175 **EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER -- BEACH -- NIGHT** 175

Boxer injects himself in the neck with a TREER SYRINGE... and then collapses to his knees.

He then keels over... falling unconscious in the sand.

176 **EXT. VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK -- NIGHT** 176

Ronald walks alone down the Venice boardwalk toward the Neo-Marxist compound. In the distance... he sees a lone ICE CREAM TRUCK parked near the SIDEWALK CAFE.

177 **INT. NEO-MARXIST COMPOUND -- NIGHT** 177

IN HIS BED... Roland begins to WHISPER SOFTLY in his sleep. He is whispering the lyrics from "ALL THESE THINGS THAT I'VE DONE" by THE KILLERS.

ROLAND
I've got soul but I'm not a soldier. I've got soul but I'm not a soldier...

The CAMERA moves in close to his CLOSED EYES as he continues to sing.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
I've got soul but I'm not a soldier...

CUT TO BLACK: